



As Trump makes case for border wall, lawmakers reach deal

By JILL COLVIN and WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — With another government shutdown deadline looming, President Donald Trump headed to the Texas border on Monday to argue his case that walls work as Democrats spurn his demands for billions to build such a barrier.

Trump was bound for El Paso, aiming to reshape the debate around the wall following a damaging shutdown fight and with his signature 2016 campaign promise hanging in limbo. In a case of pointed politi-

cal counterprogramming, Beto O'Rourke, the former Democratic congressman from Texas now mulling a presidential run, planned an evening El Paso march and rally against the wall with dozens of local civic, human rights and Hispanic groups.

The first dueling rallies of the 2020 election season were set to serve as a preview of a heated yearslong fight over the direction of the country.

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House Appropriations Committee Chair Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters as she arrives for a closed-door meeting at the Capitol as bipartisan House and Senate bargainers trying to negotiate a border security compromise in hope of avoiding another government shutdown on Capitol Hill, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

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President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with a group of sheriffs from around the country before leaving the White House in Washington, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019, for a trip to El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

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BORDER WALL

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And they made clear that Trump's long-promised border wall is sure to play an outsized role in the presidential race, as both sides use it to try to rally their supporters and highlight their contrasting approaches. As Trump traveled to the site of his Monday rally, Democratic and Republican negotiators back in Washington announced that lawmakers had reached an agreement in principle to fund the government ahead of a midnight Friday deadline to avoid another shutdown. The emerging agreement was announced by a group of lawmakers, including Republican Sen. Richard Shelby and Democratic Rep. Nita Lowey, after a closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill.

The talks had cratered over the weekend because of Democratic demands to limit immigrant detentions

by federal authorities, but lawmakers apparently broke through that impasse Monday evening. Now they will need the support of Trump, who must sign the legislation.

Trump has repeatedly pointed to El Paso to make his case that a border wall is necessary, claiming that barriers turned the city from one of the nation's most dangerous to one of its safest. But that's not true.

El Paso had a murder rate of less than half the national average in 2005, a year before the most recent expansion of its border fence. That's despite being just across the border from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, a city plagued by drug violence. The FBI's Uniform Crime Report shows that El Paso's annual number of reported violent crimes dropped from nearly 5,000 in 1995 to around 2,700 in 2016. But that corresponded with similar declines in violent crime nationwide and in-

cluded periods when the city's crime rates increased year over year, despite new fencing and walls.

The Trump campaign released a video showing El Paso residents saying the wall helped reduce crime. But many in the city have bristled at the prospect of becoming a border wall poster child.

That includes O'Rourke, a potential 2020 candidate, who came close to unseating Sen. Ted Cruz in 2018 and maintains an army of small-dollar donors and a large social media following. While few Democratic candidates have focused on immigration in their launches, O'Rourke has described Trump's calls for the wall as the "cynical rhetoric of war, of invasions, of fear."

"While some try to stoke fear and paranoia, to spread lies and a false narrative about the U.S.-Mexico border and to demand a 2,000-mile wall along it at a time of record safety and security, El Paso will come together for a march and celebration that highlights the truth," he said in a statement ahead of the event.

Moments before leaving the White House, Trump made it clear that O'Rourke was on his mind.

"We have a line that's very long already," Trump said of his El Paso rally. "I understand our competitor has got a line, too, but a tiny little line." At the time, short lines had formed for both events. The El Paso rally is Trump's first since the November midterm elections and comes at a precarious moment for his presidency. Weakened by the longest government shutdown in American history, Trump is also contending with the ongoing investigation into Russian election meddling and a flurry of investigations by newly empowered majority Democrats in the House. □



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Denver teachers go on strike in latest U.S. educator walkout

DENVER (AP) — Striking teachers picketed outside of schools and marched through Denver's streets Monday as car horns blared in support of the latest U.S. walkout amid a swell of educator activism in at least a half-dozen states over the last year.

Just over half of the 4,725 teachers called in absent for Denver's first strike in 25 years. Some students crossed picket lines to get to class as schools remained open with administrators and substitute teachers.

In one school, students danced and chanted in the hallways as they walked out to demonstrate to support their teachers. Other students joined hundreds of teachers and union members in a march past City Hall.

Science teacher Abraham Cespedes said Denver educators were empowered by recent teacher activism elsewhere around the country. "By us doing this we finally became united," he said.

The strike affecting about 71,000 students in Denver comes about a year after West Virginia teachers launched the national "Red4Ed" movement with a nine-day strike in which they won 5 percent pay raises.

There have since been walkouts in Washington state, Arizona, Kentucky and Oklahoma. Most recently, Los Angeles teachers staged a six-day strike last month. That walkout ended when teachers received a 6-percent raise and promises of smaller class sizes and the addition of more nurses and coun-

selors. The head of the National Education Association, the country's largest teachers union, told several thousand cheering Denver teachers and supporters Monday they will prevail.

"You are unique here in Denver because you are just saying, 'Can I just know what I'm being paid?'" Lily Eskelsen Garcia declared at a rally outside the state Capitol.

The dispute is over the school district's incentive-based pay system. The city's school district gives bonuses ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a year to teachers who work with students from low-income families, in schools that are designated high priority or in positions that are considered hard to staff, such as special education or speech language pathology.

The union is pushing to lower or eliminate some of those bonuses to free up more money for overall teacher pay.

The district sees the disputed bonuses as key to boosting the academic performance of poor and minority students. Teachers say the reliance on bonuses leads to high turnover, which they say hurts students, and that spending money on smaller class sizes and adding support staff, like counselors, is the best way to help disadvantaged students.

Some teachers became ineligible for bonuses after their schools lost their official low-income status because parts of the city are undergoing gentrification. The district has proposed raising starting pay from \$43,255 to \$45,500 a year.

That's \$300 a year less than the union's proposal, which would add \$50 million a year to teacher base pay, according to union officials. At a news conference, district Superintendent Susana Cordova said negotiations will resume on Tuesday, an announcement confirmed by the union. □



Hung Huynh, left, a teacher at Castro Elementary, joins his colleagues during a strike rally on the west steps of the state Capitol, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019, in Denver.

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Rep. Omar apologizes for tweets on AIPAC's influence

By LAURIE KELLMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Freshman Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar "unequivocally" apologized Monday for tweets suggesting that members of Congress support Israel because they are being paid to do so, which drew bipartisan criticism and a rebuke from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The Minnesota Democrat said she had no intention offending anyone, including Jewish Americans.

"We have to always be willing to step back and think through criticism, just as I expect people to hear me when others attack me about my identity," Omar tweeted. "This is why I unequivocally apologize."

The statement was the latest reckoning among



In this Feb. 5, 2019, photo, Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., left, joined at right by Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., listens to President Donald Trump's State of the Union speech, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

Democrats of intense differences in their ranks over the U.S.-Israeli relationship, highlighted by criticism from Omar and Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. They

are the first Muslim women to serve in Congress. Pelosi and other Democrats, including leaders and chairmen, laid down a marker making clear that Omar

had overstepped.

In a pair of tweets over the weekend, Omar criticized the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC. "It's all about the Benjamins baby," she wrote, invoking slang about \$100 bills.

Asked on Twitter who she thought was paying members of Congress to support Israel, Omar responded, "AIPAC!"

That sparked Pelosi's first public rebuke of a freshman lawmaker who had helped flip the House from Republican control and is part of a record number of women in Congress.

"Congresswoman Omar's use of anti-Semitic tropes and prejudicial accusations about Israel's supporters is deeply offensive," Pelosi said in a statement issued by her office and signed by other Democratic leaders after a bipartisan backlash against the Minnesota Democrat. "We condemn these remarks, and we call upon Congresswoman Omar to immediately apologize for these hurtful comments."

It also was a stark exposure of an increasingly tense split among Democrats over U.S.-Israeli policy ahead of the 2020 elections. None of the Democratic presidential hopefuls weighed in publicly as their party's House leaders chastised Omar.

Omar's fellow freshmen felt the strain. Some, such as Jewish Reps. Elaine Luria of Virginia and Max Rose of New York, explicitly denounced her remarks. Rep. Deb Haaland, D-N.M., said: "Anti-Semitism or xenophobia is never acceptable. I'm glad Rep. Omar has apologized."

Senior Democrats dealt the new lawmaker a swift schooling.

"There is an expectation of leaders — particularly those with a demonstrated commitment to the cause of justice and equality — that they would be extremely careful not to tread into the waters of anti-Semitism or any other form of prejudice or hate," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler of New York said in a statement. "Rep. Omar failed that test of leadership with these comments." Republicans called on Democrats to strip Omar of her seat on the House Foreign Relations Committee, but Chairman Eliot Engel stopped just short of that. He said in a statement that he expects his committee members to discuss policies on merits. And though he did not name Omar, he left little doubt that his statement was a response to her tweets.

"It's shocking to hear a Member of Congress invoke the anti-Semitic trope of 'Jewish money,'" Engel said.

AIPAC is a nonprofit organization that works to influence U.S. policy toward Israel. While it is barred from directly donating to candidates, it encourages its more than 100,000 members to do so and to be politically active.

One way the organization has made a mark on Congress is through expense-paid junkets to Israel, which are paid for by an affiliated nonprofit that does not have to disclose its donors. The popular weeklong excursions for members of Congress, their families and some senior staff can cost upward of \$12,000 per person and are intended to "educate political leaders and influencers about the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship through firsthand experiences." □



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California gov. rebukes Trump in border troop withdrawal

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday he's withdrawing most of the state's National Guard troops on the Mexico border because he won't participate in the Trump administration's "absurd theatrics" on border security.

Still, he acknowledged some troops were doing good work fighting drug crime and said he plans to allow 100 of the roughly 360 state troops now deployed to keep working with the federal government.

"I'm trying to acknowledge there are some legitimate concerns but I'm not going to play into the hype and the politics," he told reporters before signing an executive order changing the troops' mission.

Former Gov. Jerry Brown agreed in April to deploy up to 400 troops to the border in response to a request from the Trump administration made to four border states. Brown made it clear then that California troops couldn't aid in immigration enforcement, but Newsom said there's been a "gray area" in their duties.

Maj. Gen. David Baldwin of the California National Guard said the troops have not participated in immigration detention but some are conducting camera surveillance that could inadvertently aid in immi-

gration enforcement.

Newsom's rebuke of Republican President Donald Trump's administration came on the eve of Newsom's first state of the state address as governor of the nation's most populous state and frequent foil to Washington. In announcing his decision to withdraw troops, the governor ratcheted up his rhetoric against the president.

"This whole thing is the theater of the absurd and California has had enough," he said.

The Trump administration hasn't commented. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence held a meeting Monday on border security with sheriffs from around the country. Sheriff Donny Youngblood of California's Kern County was in attendance, according to the White House.

The drawdown of California's troops will begin immediately but may not be completed until March 31, when the state's current agreement with the federal government is set to end.

Newsom has reassigned roughly 110 of the troops to beef up California's fire preparation efforts ahead of the next wildfire season and to expand the guard's counterdrug task force program. The expansion requires approval from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Newsom made clear dur-

ing his campaign that he did not support the use of California Guard troops at the border. He took action about a month into his governorship because he wanted to responsibly review the issue, he said.

He initially wanted to pull all of California's troops back but said he was convinced by Guard officials that good work is being done related to combating drug trafficking.

If the Trump administration does not agree to Newsom's new terms "we'll bring the rest back," he said.

Newsom's move came on the heels of a decision by New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, also a Democrat, to pull back her state's troops from the border.

Newsom's Monday order said the increase in Central American migrants crossing the border is the result of a desire to escape violence and repression fueled in part by the activities of transnational crime organizations. The California



California Gov. Gavin Newsom, center, accompanied by from left, Mark Ghilarducci, director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Maj. Gen. David Baldwin, the Adjutant General of the California Military Department, Warren Stanley, Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol, right, and Thom Porter, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, right, during a Capitol news conference Monday, Feb. 11, 2019, in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

Guard's resources are best spent tackling those activities, he argued.

Texas and Arizona still have troops on the border.

The 360 troops are a fraction of the roughly 14,000 that have been deployed throughout California for various operations since 2016, according to Newsom's office. □



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Prosecutors seek new sentence in Laquan McDonald case

By DON BABWIN

CHICAGO (AP) — Prosecutors on Monday asked Illinois' highest court to review the less than seven year prison sentence for the white Chicago police officer who fatally shot black teenager Laquan McDonald — an unusual move in what was already a rare case.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and the special prosecutor who won a murder conviction against former officer Jason Van Dyke, Kane County State's Attorney Joseph McMahon, said they believe Cook County Judge Vincent Gaughan improperly applied the law last month when he sentenced Van Dyke to six years and nine months in prison. Raoul and McMahon filed a request with the Illinois Supreme Court seeking an order that could ultimately result in the court forcing Gaughan to impose a longer sentence. "This is the first step in asking the court to declare that the trial court improperly sentenced Jason Van Dyke for the murder and aggravated battery of Laquan McDonald and to order a new sentencing hearing," Attorney General Kwame Raoul said at a news conference.

Monday's court filing was the latest chapter in an ongoing saga that has included massive demonstrations, the firing of the police superintendent by the mayor and the ouster of the county's top prosecutors by voters a few months later. Police video of the shooting that the city released in 2015 under court order showed Van



Attorney General Kwame Raoul, left, and Kane County State's Attorney Joseph McMahon hold a news conference Monday, Feb. 11, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Dyke firing 16 bullets into McDonald, some of them after the 17-year-old fell to the ground.

The sentence for Van Dyke was the first imposed on a Chicago police officer for an on-duty shooting in a half century. It followed a jury's decision in October to convict the officer of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery with a firearm.

The central issue in prosecutors' petition is an Illinois law that allows a judge

to sentence a person for only the most serious crime when he is convicted of multiple crimes for what amounts to a single act. Gaughan determined that second-degree murder was the more serious crime, although it carries a lighter sentence than aggravated battery. The murder charge calls for a sentence of between four and 20 years in prison, compared with six to 30 years in prison for aggravated battery. Both Raoul and McMahon

steered clear of saying whether they believed the sentence was too short. But McMahon had argued in court documents ahead of the January hearing that Gaughan should impose a sentence of at least 18 years in prison. Defense attorneys had sought probation.

One of Van Dyke's attorneys, Darren O'Brien, said Monday that prosecutors' contention that the judge should sentence Van Dyke on the aggravated battery

charge because it is more serious than second-degree murder doesn't make sense.

"It's common sense that the lesser harm of getting shot would merge into the greater harm of getting killed," O'Brien said.

At the January sentencing hearing, Van Dyke, Gaughan, too, had said it was "common sense" that second-degree murder was the more serious charge, calling it an "easy answer."

Prosecutors in their legal filing pointed to a 2004 Illinois Supreme Court ruling in which a majority of justices concluded that aggravated battery is the more serious charge because it carries a stiffer penalty.

Prosecutors cannot directly appeal a sentence but are seeking what is called a writ of mandamus, which can result in an order from the Illinois Supreme Court telling a judge to adhere to the correct law.

"This is the only way for us to challenge the legality of a sentence," McMahon told reporters.

Absent a new sentence, Van Dyke will likely serve only about three years, with credit for good behavior.

Van Dyke's attorneys have notified the court of plans to appeal the conviction, but O'Brien declined to discuss what arguments they may make.

Raoul took office in January, and Van Dyke's attorneys have decried the decision to review the sentence as a political stunt.

Raoul bristled at that suggestion. "This is not a political question," he said. "This is a question of law." □

Pair who secretly filmed Planned Parenthood fight charges

By PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Planned Parenthood has made an unusual legal demand to join California's criminal prosecution of two anti-abortion activists charged with invasion of privacy for secretly making videos as they tried to buy fetal material from the organization.

A judge in San Francisco will consider the issue Monday as well as a push by prosecutors to keep the names of 14 abortion-rights workers who appear in the 2015 videos confidential.

The California attorney general in 2017 charged David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt of the Center for Medical Progress after Texas prosecutors dropped a similar case against them. The pair have pleaded not guilty and argue they are undercover journalists shielded from prosecution. Daleiden and Merritt were accused of secretly making videos that Planned Parenthood argued were heavily edited to unfairly show workers agreeing to sell fetal material for profit, which the group says it does not do. The videos led to three congressional inquiries and criminal investigations in at least 15 states. Several abortion-rights workers plan to testify at another court hearing next week in San Francisco that will determine if there's enough evidence for Daleiden and Merritt to face trial. Defense attorneys say their names should be made public.

Planned Parenthood says it wants to join the prosecution for the safety of the workers scheduled to tes-



Sandra Merritt, left, smiles as she talks with David Daleiden outside of a courtroom in San Francisco, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

tify. The group's attorneys say they want the ability to object to defense questions that could identify or otherwise jeopardize the workers' safety. They fear receiving threats from anti-abortion activists.

The judge also is deciding whether to close the courtroom to the public when video clips are shown.

A federal judge presiding over Planned Parenthood's lawsuit against the Center for Medical Progress last year barred release of the videos.

Daleiden and Merritt sneaked into numerous Planned Parenthood meetings and other abortion-rights gatherings and shot undercover videos of their attempts to buy fetal material. They published the videos in 2015.

Planned Parenthood says it doesn't sell fetal material for profit and charged only modest expenses to cover costs of donating it for medical research. The organization stopped seeking reimbursement for its shipping costs, and it never faced charges.

In one instance, a grand jury in Texas declined to indict Planned Parenthood and instead filed charges against the pair for using fake driver's licenses to get into Planned Parenthood meetings.

Those charges were dropped in 2017, the same year California Attorney General Xavier Becerra charged Daleiden and Merritt with 14 counts each of invasion of privacy. □

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Separated migrant families demand millions from U.S. agencies

By NOMAAN MERCHANT

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Eight immigrant families demanded millions of dollars in damages Monday from the Trump administration for separating them, including a Guatemalan woman who alleged an officer said her 5-year-old son would be taken and then taunted, "Happy Mother's Day."

In claims filed with the U.S. government Monday, the parents accused immigration officers of taking their children away without giving them information and sometimes mocking them or denying them a chance to say goodbye. The claims allege that many children remain traumatized even after being reunited with their parents, including a 7-year-old girl who won't sleep without her mother and a 6-year-old boy who is reluctant to eat.

The Department of Homeland Security did not respond to a request for comment.

The Trump administration has acknowledged it separated more than 2,000 families last year through the implementation of a zero-tolerance policy intended to crack down on Central American migration at the U.S.-Mexico border. Government watchdogs have also said it's unclear how many families were sepa-



In this Dec. 11, 2018 file photo, an asylum-seeking boy from Central America runs down a hallway after arriving from an immigration detention center to a shelter in San Diego.

Associated Press

rated in total because agencies did not keep good enough records as the policy was implemented.

In her claim, the Guatemalan woman alleges she was detained in May with her son in a type of temporary detention facility nicknamed a "hielera," or icebox in Spanish. The immigration officer who taunted her and three other women told them the law had changed, that their children would be taken away, and that they would be deported, the claim alleges.

The woman says another immigration officer woke her up at about 5 a.m. days later, ordered her to bathe and clothe her son, and then took her son into another room. The woman says she begged not to

have her son taken, then asked that the two be deported together to Guatemala rather than separated. Her son only spoke the indigenous Guatemalan language of Mam.

"The officer laughed," the claim says. "He made fun of her indigenous accent and said, laughingly, 'it's not that easy.'"

They were reunited in July, but then placed in a family detention center. They were released in November.

Stanton Jones, a lawyer for the families, said the families were entitled to monetary damages because of the government's "inexplicable cruelty."

"The government was harming children intentionally to try to advance what it viewed as a policy objective," Jones said. □

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Spain's courts put to test by trial of Catalan separatists

By ARITZ PARRA

JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain is bracing for the nation's most sensitive trial in four decades of democracy this week, with a dozen Catalan separatists facing charges including rebellion over a failed secession bid in 2017.

The proceedings, which begin Tuesday, will be broadcast live on television and all eyes will be focused on the impartiality of the Spanish Supreme Court.

Catalonia's separatists have attacked the court's credibility in the run-up to the trial, saying it is a puppet of the Spanish government and any ruling will be a political one that has been decided in advance. "In reality, it's democracy itself that will go on trial," Oriol Junqueras, one of the accused, wrote from jail in reply to questions sent by The Associated Press. "We are before a trial which, through a partial investigation full of falsities and irregularities, criminalizes a political option and an ideology."

But Supreme Court president Carlos Lesmes dismisses that notion, saying the trial is the most important since Spain's transition to



In this Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018 file photo, pro-Independence demonstrators gather at La Diagonal, one Barcelona's main avenues, during the Catalan National Day in Barcelona, Spain.

Associated Press

democracy in 1977 after the death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco.

"This is a trial following the highest standards set by the European Union," Lesmes recently told a group of journalists.

Lesmes says the outcome of the trial will reverberate beyond the political crisis in Catalonia, while recognizing that the Supreme Court's integrity is at stake. "I certainly believe that there is a huge campaign to discredit the Spanish judiciary, which forms part

of a defense strategy," he said.

Spanish authorities say that the separatists are guaranteed a fair trial by the very democracy founded on the rule of law that they allegedly violated.

Lesmes rejected the idea that Spanish courts operate at the whim of the government, pointing to recent guilty verdicts for prominent members of the political and economic elite, including last year's graft conviction of former members of Rajoy's then-ruling

party and the imprisonment, also on graft, of the king's brother-in-law.

Junqueras, the former vice president of the Catalan regional government, and 11 others are being tried for their roles in holding an independence referendum on Oct. 1, 2017, after ignoring a ban by the country's Constitutional Court, and for the subsequent declaration of independence 26 days later despite more warnings from authorities. The conflict with Catalonia has been festering ever

since, with a regional election on Dec. 21, 2017, showing that the 7.5 million residents of Catalonia remain divided by the secession question.

Junqueras himself faces the largest possible sentence of 25 years for rebellion. He and eight other defendants have spent over a year in pre-trial custody because they were considered to be flight risks.

For Junqueras, the reasons are instead "revenge and exemplary punishment."

"This is a warning for future generations against questioning the state's status quo," he wrote, "even if that diminishes its own democracy."

Junqueras' boss, former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, and seven associates fled Spain to other European countries and have succeeded in avoiding extradition.

Proceedings are likely to last for at least three months. The verdicts, and any sentences, would be delivered months later.

More than 500 witnesses have been called to testify in court, including former Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, Catalan and central government officials, police officers and ordinary citizens. □

Macedonia prepares for name change by removing signs



Workers dismantle metal fencing from the front of the Macedonia's Government in the capital Skopje, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

Associated Press

By KONSTANTIN TESTORIDES
SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP)

— Macedonian authorities began Monday removing official signs from government buildings to prepare

for the country's new name: North Macedonia.

"Government of the Republic of Macedonia" signs were removed from the country's main govern-

ment building in the capital Skopje. Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev is scheduled to speak at ceremony Tuesday at the site, where organizers said the NATO flag is due to be raised.

Authorities were also preparing to replace signs at the country's border with Greece.

The small Balkan country will change its name to North Macedonia after reaching a landmark agreement over the summer with neighboring Greece, which has a neighboring province called Macedonia. Macedonia is due to become a NATO member now that Greece's parliament approved a measure Friday that would allow the

country to join the alliance. Greece had blocked Macedonia's accession to NATO for more than a decade.

Macedonia will now publish the deal with Greece in its government gazette so that the agreement can take effect.

The Greek and Macedonian governments want to implement the deal swiftly, faced with strong opposition from their domestic political opponents and skeptical public opinion on both sides of the border. More than two-thirds of Greeks opposed the agreement, according to several recent opinion polls, while a referendum on the deal in Macedonia last year saw more than 60 percent stay

away from the vote.

"The government building has been left with no official sign — it's an embarrassing action by the prime minister," said Naum Stoilkovski, a spokesman for Macedonia's conservative opposition party VMRO-DPMNE.

"The Republic of Macedonia has been dishonored and disfigured."

With a struggling \$11 billion economy, Macedonia has craved stability since gaining independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, but its integration with other European countries was held back by its dispute with Greece and international tension about Macedonia's future NATO membership, which is strongly opposed by Russia. □



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UK's May seeks compromise with Labour in EU divorce deal

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May sought a compromise Monday with opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn in hopes of securing his backing for a divorce deal with the European Union.

The political maneuvering comes amid strong signs that uncertainty over Brexit is already clamping down on Britain's economic growth.

Taking a cordial tone, May suggested further talks with the Labour Party leadership even as she said she did not see the advantage of permanent membership in the EU's customs union, a key demand Corbyn is seeking in exchange for



Swiss Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, center, British Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox, left, and Liechtenstein's Foreign Minister Aurelia Frick, right, shake hands after signing a trade agreement in Bern, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

backing her troubled Brexit bill in Parliament.

Justice Minister Rory Stew-

art told the BBC that differences between the two parties aren't as great as

some suggest, but said the Conservative government can't accept Corbyn's customs union demand because it would prevent Britain from negotiating trade deals with other countries. He said May's agreement would achieve most of Corbyn's goals without preventing independent trade deals.

"I agree that the longer this goes on, the more risky it gets, obviously," Stewart said. "But, the solution to this has to be to get Jeremy Corbyn, or the Labour Party, or indeed Parliament as a whole, to come behind a deal."

Time pressure is mounting. Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29, but law-

makers in Parliament have emphatically rejected May's divorce deal, raising the prospect of a no-deal exit from the bloc unless more parliamentary support is found.

EU leaders have turned down May's plea to renegotiate parts of the legally binding Brexit withdrawal bill, making the no-deal outcome more likely even though both sides believe it would harm their economies.

May is to give a statement to Parliament on Tuesday, a day earlier than planned. Downing Street said that would give Parliament a few days to consider her remarks. □

Rights expert: Hungary backsiding on women, refugee rights

By PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungary is facing "many interconnected human rights challenges," including laws targeting civic groups, backsiding on women's rights and the systematic detention of asylum-seekers, the Council of Europe's human rights chief said Monday.

Commissioner Dunja Mijatovic, who visited Hungary last week, also expressed concerns about the independence of Hungary's media and judiciary.

"The space for the work of NGOs, human rights defenders and journalists critical of the government has become very narrow and restricted," Mijatovic said in a statement, calling on

Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government to "reverse its worrying course" on human rights.

Orban's government said Mijatovic's criticism was "not unexpected" and called it a "political attack" related to Hungary's "zero tolerance" position on immigration. It said it expected further criticism ahead of the European Parliament election in May.

"As the elections approach, we can expect a rather sharp rise in the number of such political attacks against Hungary," the government's International Communications Office said. "However, Hungary will continue its migration policy, because ... the Hungarian people have declared their opinion and their will:

they do not want to live in an immigrant country."

Last year Hungary approved jail sentences for people convicted of aiding asylum-seekers and put taxes on grants or contributions from foreign sources. Mijatovic said the new laws had "a continuous chilling effect on the human rights work of civil society organizations."

On women's rights, she noted that 28 percent of Hungarian women age 15 or over have experienced physical or sexual violence. "There is an urgent need to raise awareness of violence against women in Hungary," Mijatovic said, urging the government to ratify the Istanbul Convention on combating domestic violence, while acknowledging



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban delivers his annual "State of Hungary" speech in Budapest, Hungary, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

ing that the country was expanding support services to address the problem. Mijatovic also said Hungary should stop detaining asylum-seekers at border trans-

sit zones, since that blocks them from being able to "apply for refugee protections guaranteed under international and European law." □

Iranians mark anniversary of victory day in 1979 revolution

By NASSER KARIMI

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Waving Iranian flags, chanting "Death to America" and burning U.S. and Israeli flags, hundreds of thousands of people poured out onto the streets across Iran on Monday, marking the date that's considered victory day in the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

On Feb. 11 that year, Iran's military stood down after days of street battles, allowing the revolutionaries to sweep across the country while the government of U.S.-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi resigned and the Islamic Republic was born.

In Tehran, despite the rain, crowds streamed in from the capital's far-flung neighborhoods to mass in the central Azadi, or Freedom, Square, waving Iranian flags and chanting "Death to America" — standard fare at rallies across Iran.

Chants of "Death to Israel" and "Death to Britain" followed, and demonstrators burned U.S. and Israeli flags. Iranian state TV, which said millions partici-



Iranians attend a ceremony celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, at the Azadi, or Freedom Tower, in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

pated in the celebrations, ran archive footage of the days of the uprising and played revolutionary songs. It later broadcast footage showing crowds across the country of 80 million. The 6-mile-long downtown Enghelab, or Revolution, Street was decorated with huge balloons as loudspeakers blared out revo-

lutionary and nationalist songs.

Every year, the anniversary festivities start on Feb. 1 — the day Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned from France after 14 years in exile to become the supreme leader as Shiite clerics took power. The celebrations continue for 10 days, climaxing on Feb. 11.

This year's anniversary comes as Iran grapples with the aftermath of President Donald Trump's decision last May to withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal and restore tough U.S. sanctions.

Speaking from a podium in central Tehran, President Hassan Rouhani addressed the crowds for nearly 45

minutes, lashing out at Iran's enemies — America and Israel — and claiming their efforts to "bring down" the country through sanctions will not succeed.

"The presence of people in this celebration means that plots by the enemies ... have been defused," Rouhani said. "They will not achieve their ill-omened aims."

In the backdrop to Monday's marches, the military displayed Iranian-made missiles, which authorities showcase every year during anniversary celebrations. The missiles have a range of up to 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles), placing Israel and U.S. military bases within range.

Over the past decade, Iran has frequently test-fired and displayed missiles, sent several short-lived satellites into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space.

The ballistic missile tests have angered the United States, which fears they are part of an effort to develop a nuclear weapons capability, something Iran insists it has never sought. □

Official: Russia's political system a good model for others



Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to Russian Sport minister Pavel Kolobkov during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A senior policy adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin predicted that the nation's political system will live on for a century and serve as a model for others around

the world.

Vladislav Surkov wrote in a piece published Monday in the daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta that Russia's anti-globalist emphasis on strong national sovereignty is getting increasing traction worldwide.

"The Russian-made political system is not only good for home, it has a significant export potential," he said. "Others study it and borrow from it."

Surkov, who oversaw the Kremlin's efforts to tighten control over Russia's political sphere and currently serves as Putin's adviser on Ukraine, predicted that "Putin's big political machine is only starting to gain speed for a long, hard and interesting operation."

Russia-West relations have sunk to their lowest levels since Cold War times after 2014 Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea, allegations of Moscow's meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the war in Syria and other disputes.

The 54-year-old Surkov is not a typical Kremlin official. He famously decorated his Kremlin office with a

portrait of American rapper Tupac Shakur along with that of Putin, wrote texts for a Russian rock group, penned a novel under an alias and published political articles full of literary allusions.

With surprising candor, Surkov acknowledged in his Monday's piece that Russia's political institutions just imitate those in Western democracies, while "military and police functions are decisive and the most important" and the entire system hinges entirely on Putin's authority.

He mocked accusations by Washington and its allies of Russian interference abroad.

"Foreign politicians blame Russia for meddling in elections and referenda all over the planet," Surkov said. "In fact, it's even more serious than that: Russia is med-

dling in their brains and they don't know what to do with their changed consciousness."

Mixing sarcasm with bravado, Surkov wrote that "the foreign interest in Russian political algorithms is clear — no prophet is accepted in his home country, and Russia has prophesied what is happening to them now." He charged that Russia has run ahead of the curve with its anti-globalist stance and fierce defense of its conservative values — approaches that have increasingly spread to other countries.

Surkov mentioned Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election, the British decision to exit the European Union, the rise of anti-immigration sentiments across Europe among signs of a growing nationalism. "Putinism is the ideology of the future," he said. □

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Malaysian ex-PM Najib combative ahead of 1MDB graft trial

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — From appearing in an R&B music video and trolling social media to vilify the new government, former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has been combative before the start of his graft trial, linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund that has battered the country's standing abroad. The trial was to start Tuesday, but Najib's lawyers won a delay of proceedings on Monday.

Najib's lawyer, Farhan Read, said the Appeal Court allowed the delay pending an appeal over a technical issue that the defense says could impair the validity of the trial. No date has been set for the appeal hearing. Prosecutors couldn't immediately be reached for comment, but reportedly said it could delay the trial by up to two weeks.

Anger over the 1MDB scandal led to Najib's spectacular election defeat nine months ago. U.S. investigators say more than \$4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014 and the ill-gotten gains were laundered through layers of bank accounts in the U.S. and other countries to finance Hollywood films and buy hotels, a luxury yacht,



In this July 4, 2018, file photo, former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, center, arrives at a court house in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Associated Press

art works, jewelry and other extravagances. Some \$700 million from the fund that Najib set up for Malaysia's economic development allegedly landed in his own bank account.

One of only a few Southeast Asian leaders to be arraigned after losing office, Najib has denied any wrongdoing. He is charged with 42 counts of criminal breach of trust, graft, abuse of power and money laundering in one of Malaysia's biggest criminal trials. His wife Rosmah Mansor also

has been charged with money laundering and tax evasion linked to 1MDB. She has pleaded not guilty and her trial has not been set.

Instead of lying low ahead of his trial, Najib has fought back with a political makeover on social media that aims to transform his image from an out-of-touch elitist to a leader for the working class.

A Malay-language catchphrase translating to "What's to be ashamed about, my boss?" was

coined while he was campaigning in a by-election last month and has become his new rally cry.

Expensive tailored suits have been replaced by hoodies and jeans. A picture Najib posted on social media showing himself posing on a Yamaha motorcycle with his new "no-shame" meme resonated with many Malay youths disenchanted by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's new government. In another offbeat music video that he uploaded on social media, Najib

slammed the new government as "liars" and crooned about the "slander and revenge" against him in a Malay-language rendition of the 1970's R&B soul hit "Kiss and Say Goodbye" by the American group, the Manhattans.

He posts a dozen messages daily on social media, mostly mocking the new government and its policies, and touching on the plight of the needy.

Last month while visiting vendors at a wet market, Najib jeered government leaders on Facebook: "Let the ministers sleep on this Saturday morning."

Bridget Welsh, political science professor at the John Cabot University in Rome, said Najib is seeking to tap into anger from those who were displaced politically and those disappointed by the new government.

"There will actually be two battles — that in the courtroom and that in the public — in which Najib has used a flush-funded social media machine to build support," said Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert. "He has fanned two sentiments — supposed political victimization and racial insecurity — stemming from the fact that Malay chauvinists do not have the same level of political power in the new government." □

Fears rise in Nicaragua over new social security overhaul

By GABRIELA SELSER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua

(AP) — Nicaraguans revolted last April when the government announced it was raising payroll taxes and cutting retirement benefits to bolster a social security program hemorrhaging money.

The unrest led authorities to quickly withdraw the measure, but as the protests boiled for months and broadened into demands that President Daniel Ortega leave office, security forces responded with a harsh crackdown that killed over 300 people. Hundreds more were arrested and an estimated 50,000 fled into exile.

Now, with the dissident movement cowed, a new plan to cut pension payments by 30 to 40 percent and raise payroll taxes is taking effect. And economists and businesspeople are warning that it threatens to have even more severe effects for Nicaraguans and could plunge the country into deeper recession and unemployment.

"This measure is absolutely much more drastic since it's not gradual but instead immediate, and it will affect the nearly 800,000 insured in the country," said Mario Arana, who was minister for development, head of the Treasury and president of Nicaragua's Central Bank during the 2001-2006 ad-



In this Feb. 8, 2019 photo, a Sandinista National Liberation Front ruling party banner and a national flag fly outside the Social Security Institute, in Managua, Nicaragua.

Associated Press

ministration of Ortega's predecessor.

"All sectors of the economy will be damaged," Arana said.

The social security package was approved in January by a legislature dominated by Ortega's allies and took effect Feb. 1.

Businesses with over 50 employees will see their social security tax payments rise from 19 percent to 22.5 percent of pay while the tax on a worker's wages will go from 6.25 percent to 7 percent. The tax on independent workers increases from 18.25 percent to 22.25 percent of income.

At the same time, the tax

that funds disability, age and death insurance programs is rising from 10 percent to 14 percent.

That has people like Mercedes Ramirez, who owns a beauty salon in the capital of Managua, worried. Over the last decade, she has already seen her clientele plummet and had to lay off two of her four stylists. Now she doesn't know if she can afford the social security taxes for the two who remain.

"This situation can't go on," Ramirez said. "If I let my employees go I'll have to close my business and then ... what will we live on? My children are out of work."

Gustavo Porras, an Ortega ally who heads congress, which begins a new session Tuesday, said the change aims to "guarantee payment of all pensions and the rights of workers that were won under this government."

Yet authorities have not detailed how reforms will affect the finances of the Social Security Institute. Nor have they said whether they will address administrative costs at the agency, whose budget as of November was running at a record deficit of \$86 million, up 57 percent from a year earlier.

Enrique Saenz, an econo-

mist and former lawmaker who left Nicaragua months ago due to his opposition to Ortega, characterizes the crisis at the institute as a problem of Ortega's own creation, blaming "fiscal mismanagement, professional incompetence and irresponsible populism."

Saenz said the institute was operating with a \$60 million surplus when Ortega returned to power in 2007. But over the last 12 years its administrative costs more than doubled and its payroll more than tripled to over 4,000 workers, while executive positions rose from 10 to 136, he said.

The system covers 250,000 retirees, a number growing by 12 to 13 percent a year. The International Monetary Fund has been warning since 2017 that the agency's troubled finances threatened what had been relative stability in Nicaragua before the political crisis. The economy had been averaging annual GDP growth of about 4.5 percent since 2014.

Despite the new tax increases, Nicaragua has not seen a repeat of last year's mass protests. And it seems unlikely to, since Ortega, a 73-year-old ex-guerrilla who was first president from 1985 to 1990, forcefully quashed the challenge to his power, including effectively outlawing opposition demonstrations since September. □

Brazilian TV anchor dies in helicopter crash



Men hold the tail of a helicopter where it crashed into the front of a cargo truck during an emergency landing on a main highway, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

SAO PAULO (AP) — An award-winning Brazilian television news anchor died Monday when a helicopter carrying him crashed on one of Sao Paulo's main highways.

TV Band says Ricardo Boechat was returning from a university in the city of Campinas when the helicopter crashed onto a truck. Police confirmed the pilot also died.

The 66-year-old Boechat anchored TV Band's main nightly news, as well as hosting a radio program

and writing a column for IstoÉ magazine. He was also a frequent mediator of presidential debates for his network.

Boechat had won three of Brazil's most prestigious journalism awards for his reports on corruption. He was noted for poking fun at politicians across the political spectrum.

Police Captain Augusto Paiva said the truck driver suffered only minor injuries. "The helicopter tried to land in an access road close to a toll station. But then the truck came and they

crashed. The fire occurred because of the collision," Paiva said.

President Jair Bolsonaro, a frequent target of Boechat's criticism, expressed his condolences on Twitter. Boechat left six children. □

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Island Insight

Aruba's way back in time of the Paleo lithic hunters and gatherers.



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DESIGN BY STEFFEN HAAS



Episode V: They who set foundation for our nation Coming from the South to the beloved rock,

Approximately 3000 to 2500 years ago agro-potters from the Amazon-Orinoco river basins started their journey spreading in a constant North-western direction. They did this mainly over land. Great obstacles had to be overcome during their journey. The enigma is what triggered this new wave of migration on land, while other groups chose the rivers to reach to the Atlantic Ocean. In time they perfected their vessels into sea worthy canoes, capable to traveling alongside the coastline and the open sea, reaching the isles of Caribbean Sea. These Amerindians were from a totally different ethnic group if compared to the Paleo natives we mentioned before. These tropical rain forest farmers were different in many other physical and culture aspects. Arawakan speaking people who in a thousand years or more colonized the northern and coastal areas of South America, including almost all the islands of the Caribbean Sea.



Pic. 1 Tropical forest farming Amerindian groups

However it is most probably that the ancient and well-cured Paleo cousins, who populated the land before, behind the Cordillera de Merida and the Segovia Highlands in Venezuela, which together with the Cordillera de Perija in Colombia, formed an enclosed highland area. This land stretched around a big lake, following along the coast line and reaching the ocean and the isthmus of Paraguana, played their part in their cultural development of the new comers, since they knew exactly how to survive in this part of land. This Cordillera or mountainous ridge represented at one time a natural barrier, separating the area of Lake Maracaibo and where the earth stretched east, reaching the Caribbean Sea. This land of forest and palms, abundant in game was soon to be transformed into an area where slash-and-burn or tropical forest agricultural techniques were introduced and practiced. This method of clearing the land for agricultural purposes is associated with the cultivation of mainly tubers such as yucca, yams, sweet potatoes and probably some Musa varieties, like Bananas and plantains were common. There were many plants that could be grinded into flour for the elaboration of their main staples such as arepas, cachapas and alla cas, etc.

A more organized form of agriculture developed with the acquiring of the seeds of life or better known as the American corn, a totally new crop that



Pic. 2. The bringing of the holy cross to Sta. Cruz.

was developed in Mexico that changed the world. This Indian corn or Zea Maize soon became the transformer of cultures, where simple and the ordinary use of clay is transformed into the development of sophisticated ceramic artifacts of high artistic mastery of the ceramic techniques. Ceremonial ornaments were created in gratitude to the spirits of life and fertility. The Paleo hunters were those who knew the land, knew the use of the flora, fauna and what was available as raw materials, essential and elemental for a their rapid adaptation.

These people were the descendant of South American tropical-forest farmers. They became the heirs of the land and later the legendary Caquetio tribe. The people who received the Spaniards on arrival when the R.C. cross was brought from the mainland. At that time, an organized society had established itself responding to the main chief who lived on the mainland. History mentioned his frequent visits on this part of his territory of influence.

The Caquetios

Like hunters and gatherers, had so-

cio-cultural units consisting mainly of kin-based populations which were structured along the lines of age and sex, without much in the way of economic, political, or religious grounds for social status differentiation. Social controls were largely based on kinship rights and obligations of a moral nature, except in cases of certain military activities that were often under the temporary leadership of special chiefs. Their richer technology and production of agricultural surpluses enabled villages to remain in the same place for many years. They were supported by a more adequate and dependable food supply, which included maize (corn), beans, squash, manioc, and tropical vegetables and fruits, as well as the riches of the mangroves forests and the Caribbean Sea.

Caquetio, also spelled Caiquetio, or Caiquetia, Indians of northwestern South America were living along the shores of Lake Maracaibo at the time of the Spanish conquest. They conquered the islands Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba. □

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Airbnb and Aruba Tourism Authority Sign MOU to Continue Partnership to Drive Sustainable Tourism through Home Sharing



ORANJESTAD — Airbnb and the Aruba Tourism Authority signed a significant agreement to continue to cooperate to drive sustainable tourism in Aruba through home sharing. The agreement further cements the organizations' partnership to establish a framework for discussions regarding taxes, facilitate consistent stakeholder meetings, and share useful aggregated data.

"Aruba has experienced sustained growth in our tourism sector over the last several years and we feel that in working with Airbnb, we can reach a whole new segment of tourists who are interested in living like local Arubans while experiencing a different side of our island," stated Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO from the Aruba Tourism Authority.

The home sharing community in Aruba is a growing component

of the local tourism industry and an important asset to the island's wealth. With more than 2,300 listings throughout the country, Airbnb plays a significant role in Aruba's economy. A typical Aruban host had an annual earning of USD 9,200 last year, a 77% increase since 2017.

"Aruba is an important partner, and we are pleased to continue working together to develop a strong, democratized tourism industry through home-sharing, where Arubans benefit directly," said Carlos Munoz, Airbnb Campaign Manager, Public Policy and Communications for the Caribbean and Central America.

Through Airbnb, tourism in Aruba is more accessible and inclusive. In 2018, Airbnb hosts in Aruba welcomed approximately 47,200 guests with an average trip length of about six days. These travelers

were accommodated by 940 hosts who opened their doors to offer locals and foreigners alike a unique travel experience.

Aruban hosts are a diverse group; fifty-one percent of hosts are female. The average host age is 48, with seventy-seven percent of hosts between the ages of 30 and 59. At the same time, Arubans also choose Airbnb when traveling. In 2018, 5,100 Aruban guests stayed at Airbnb listings both in Aruba and abroad, eager to experience what it is like to live like a local wherever they travel. "Our goal is to work together to drive more sustainable and unique tourism to the island, help make Aruba a regional leader in the sharing economy and continue to position Aruba as a world-class tourist destination," continued Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes.

Airbnb has been developing partnerships in the region to support a thriving community of homeowners who are renting their spaces and creating new flows of local economic benefits. With its strong partnership with the CTO, Airbnb is steadily working to drive tourism in the region and expand economic opportunity by promoting authentic travel throughout the Caribbean. To date, 18 collaboration or voluntary tax collection agreements have been signed throughout the region. Airbnb looks forward to building its relationship with Aruba to help grow the tourism sector.

2018 Airbnb figures

- Total Airbnb Guests Arrivals in Aruba: 47,200.
- Number of hosts: 940
- Percentage of female hosts: 51%
- Money received per year by a typical host: USD \$9,200*.
- Total listings on the platform: 2,300.
- Total Departures of Guests through Airbnb (Arubans abroad): 5,100.

* Typical host earnings represents the median income of the hosts in Aruba during the period between January 1 and December 31, 2018

About Airbnb

Founded in 2008, Airbnb's mission is to create a world where people can belong through healthy travel that is local, authentic, diverse, inclusive and sustainable. Airbnb uniquely leverages technology to economically empower millions of people around the world to unlock and monetize their spaces, passions and talents to become hospitality entrepreneurs. Airbnb's accommodation marketplace provides access to 5+ million unique places to stay in more than 81,000 cities and 191 countries. With Experiences, Airbnb offers unprecedented access to local communities and interests through 20,000 unique, handcrafted activities run by hosts across 1,000+ markets around the world. Airbnb's people-to-people platform benefits all its stakeholders, including hosts, guests, employees and the communities in which it operates. □

Celebrate Love!

ORANJESTAD — Valentine's Day is the celebration of love, beauty and romantic mood between couples and/or friends. It is a festive day where you would like to emphasize the importance of this special person in your life. You can do this in many ways, by sending cards, flowers, gifts, presents or arranging a wonderful day/night out.

While enjoying your stay in Aruba you can make this day extra special by surprising your love with the help of Aruba Today. Despite the fact that we have wonderful dinner and gift options to choose from, advertised in our newspaper in the coming days up to Feb-

ruary 14th, we can make this day even more special.

Surprise your loved one with a picture of her/him or both of you in Aruba Today, accompanied by your personal message. Imagine taking your vacation breakfast in the morning while going through the newspaper and all of a sudden you see YOU. This will make her or his day for sure.

What Do You Do?

Send your selected picture (high resolution JPEG) with short personal Valentine message (maximum 40 words) to email: linda.reijnders@cspnv.com LATEST Tuesday February 12.



What Will We Do?

We will put your picture and message in the local section of Aruba Today on Thursday February 14 in our printed newspaper and on our website and Facebook page.

Make her/him smile on this special day, do something different!

There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved. ... ~ George Sand □

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Honoring of Bob & Ellen Foster at Quality Apartments

PALM BEACH — Recently, Darline de Cuba of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors. This award is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are Bob & Ellen Foster residents of Ontario Canada, who have been coming to our island for more than 12 consecutive years.



The lovely couple stated that they love everything about the island, its people, the culture, the weather, the beach the safety they feel here is like no other place in the world. Throughout the years they've made so many new friends and some have even become more like family.

Mrs. De Cuba together with the representatives of Quality Apartments presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



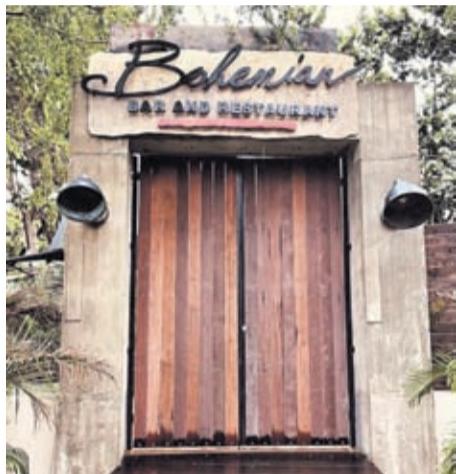
ARUBA'S MOST REWARDING CASINO EXPERIENCE

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Bohemian Restaurant: Check In Please

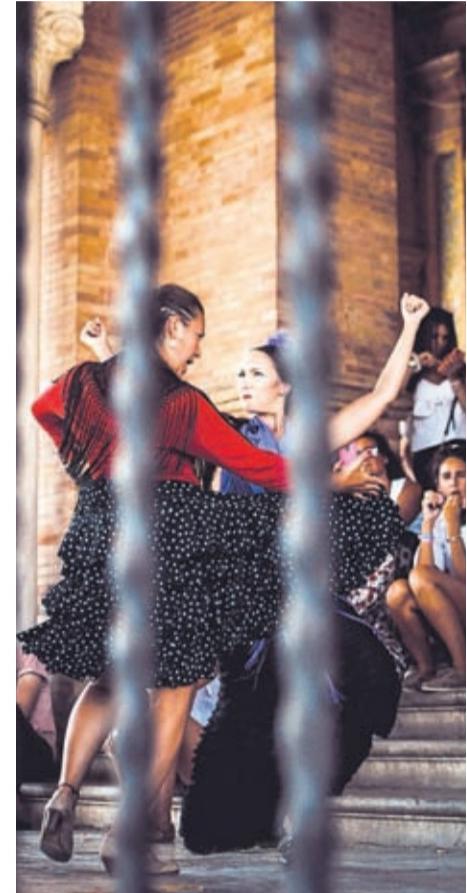


PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, nonconformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about and WEDNESDAY NIGHT they even top the eclectic vibe with live Flamenco singer Angela Baidez. Bohemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.



From 8 PM tomorrow night Spanish Paella and much more is on the menu, of course with pairing wines. The beautiful garden of Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and live music in an intimate, hip and offbeat ambiance. Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Bohemian Restaurant is located on the corner of Barceló Resort in the center of the hi-rise frenzy.

Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort.



Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemiana-aruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □

Visit the California Lighthouse and get your lighthouse passport stamped!



NOORD — The California Lighthouse is now official member of the United States Society of Lighthouses.

The United States Lighthouse Society is a non-profit, historical and educational organization incorpo-

rated to educate, inform, and entertain those who are interested in lighthouses, past and present.

For those who loves to visit the lighthouses when on vacation, the society created a passport program. The program gives enthusiasts the

opportunity to help preserve the Lighthouses but also receive a stamp for their collection.

The Monumentsfund Aruba became a member of the society last year. The California Lighthouse is now also part of the passport program.

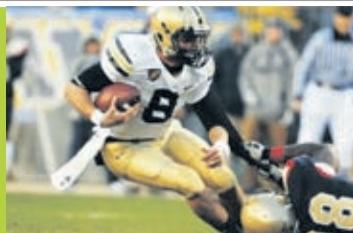
Aruba is the second country outside of the US to become a member of USLHS. Members can now visit the Lighthouse and received a California Lighthouse stamp in their USLHS passports. Visitors will be ask for a 1 dollar contribution for a stamp, thus will be used to help maintain the Lighthouse.

For more information and how to become a member visit: www.uslhs.org

And if you already have a passport just ask the Experitours guides at the Lighthouse for your stamp! □



SPORTS



Third placed United States' Lindsey Vonn poses during the medal ceremony for the women's downhill race at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

A perfect day and a perfect goodbye for Vonn

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Lindsey Vonn just wanted to win.

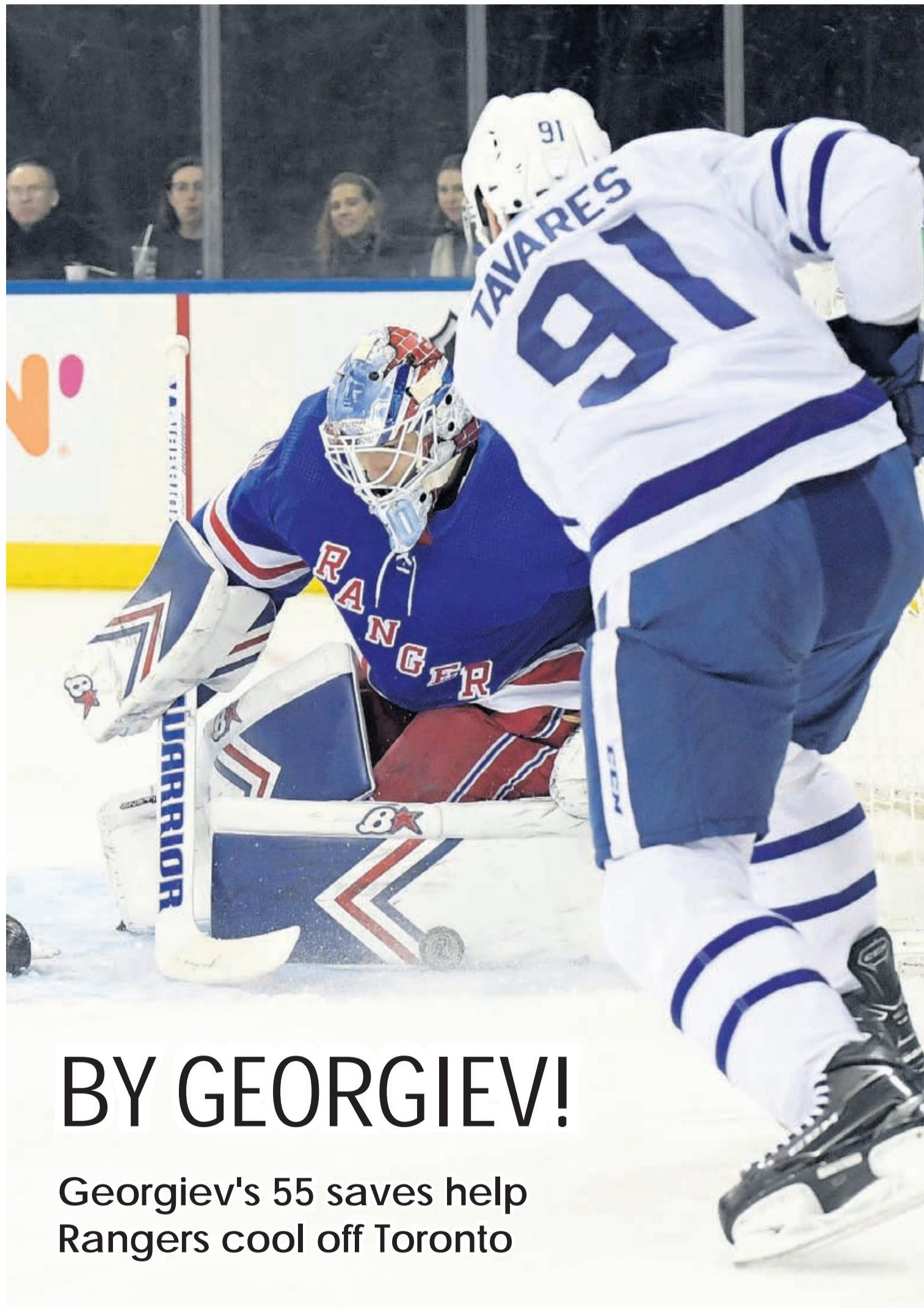
Win every time she put on skis. Win more than any other female ski racer before her.

Win no matter how much she hurt or how much the eventual cost would be to her body.

That might be why Vonn was so perplexed the other day when heir apparent Mikaela Shiffrin — who grew up wanting to be another Vonn and may one day surpass her as the greatest female skier ever — decided against trying to win five medals at the world championships in Sweden.

"I'm a racer and I want to race in every single race that I possibly can," Vonn said. "So I don't personally understand it."

Continued on Next Page



BY GEORGIEV!

Georgiev's 55 saves help Rangers cool off Toronto

New York Rangers goaltender Alexandar Georgiev (40) makes a save on a shot by Toronto Maple Leafs center John Tavares (91) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press
Page 20

Pinturault ends long wait for individual gold

By STEVE DOUGLAS

AP Sports Writer

ARE, Sweden (AP) — With the Alpine combined possibly getting axed from major skiing championships, Alexis Pinturault had one final chance to assert his long-time dominance of the event.

He didn't waste it.

The French skier produced the second-fastest slalom leg to rise from 24th place after the downhill portion and win by 0.24 seconds at the world championships on Monday.

It was Pinturault's first individual gold medal at a major championship.

This was a day for the slalom specialists in the combined — no change there,

then — with the top six all preferring the shorter and more technical leg. Stefan Hadalin of Slovenia came second in a big shock and Marco Schwarz of Austria took bronze, 0.46 behind Pinturault.

And that perhaps explains why the combined is under threat as the International Ski Federation decides on the future of Alpine skiing's original Olympic discipline. FIS could replace Alpine combined with parallel slalom racing at future Olympics and world championships.

Pinturault said he would be "sad" to see the combined disappear from the schedule. That's not a surprise, given he has won four of



France's Alexis Pinturault speeds down the course during the slalom portion of the men's combined competition, at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

the past five World Cup combined titles.

Before Monday, however, he had yet to transfer his consistent winning form on the World Cup circuit into gold at a major championship.

"There's been a lot of years

where I have fallen on difficult times in my career as an athlete," said Pinturault, who cried after failing to win a gold medal at the worlds in St. Moritz, Switzerland, in 2017. "But it has allowed me to learn, to persevere."

Pinturault, who describes himself as "French-Norwegian" because his mother, Hege, is from Norway, was aided by the absence of Marcel Hirscher, the Olympic champion in combined and a seven-time overall World Cup champion. □

A PERFECT DAY

Continued from Previous Page

There's no way Vonn could understand. She knew only one way, and that was to go as fast as she can before she could go no more. That time came Sunday, and there was no way Vonn was going home without a medal.

It was a bronze in the downhill, but it was just as good as gold. If this was Vonn's final day as a ski racer — and every aching bone in her body said it was — she wasn't going to leave anything in the tank.

Then again, Vonn never leaves anything in the tank. "I think everyone knows my mentality at this point," Vonn said afterward. "I always risk everything all the time. It's the reason I'm able to win so much but also the reason I crash so much."

The wins piled up over the years, 82 of them in all, more than any skier not named Ingemar Stenmark. So, though, did the crashes, costing her even more wins and the Olympic medals that often define the greats.

The last came five days before her final medal, a fall in the super-G that not only

knocked the wind out of Vonn but gave her a black eye and a bruised rib. That was on top of the ligament Vonn tore in her left knee three months ago, and the aches and pains that had to make her feel much older than 34.

The plan had been to ski another year before saying goodbye. But Vonn's body wouldn't cooperate, and the decision she didn't want to make was made for her.

She could have coasted down on one ceremonial final run before basking in the applause at the bottom of the hill. But Vonn never coasted, and she wasn't about to in her final race.

She willed herself to the starting gate one last time, catching a break because the course had been shortened due to weather. Then she flew down the hill as fast as she could, hoping her body would somehow stay in one piece at least to the finish line.

It did, in a storybook finish to one of the most remarkable careers ever.

"I risked it all today as always," Vonn said. "I was so nervous all day, serious



From left, second placed Corinne Suter of Switzerland, winner Ilka Stuhec of Slovenia, and third placed Lindsey Vonn of the United States pose during the medal ceremony for the women's downhill race at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

anxiety. I think I wanted more than anything to finish strong."

Consider that one final task accomplished. The record books will show that Slovenia's Ilka Stuhec won the gold, but this was Vonn's day and this was Vonn's race.

She invited Stenmark, the Swedish great, to the final and that was fitting. Stenmark holds the record for most races won at 86, a mark Vonn had her eyes on before finally realizing that Father Time beats every-

one, even the best female ski racer on the planet.

Mike Tyson used to say boxing was a hurt sport. So is downhill racing, and Vonn's own body is proof.

She'll begin her retirement with her seventh knee surgery — this one a total reconstruction — and knows she'll have pain the rest of her life from the rods, plates and screws inserted in her various parts.

Going on simply wasn't an option anymore, even for the woman who never wanted to do anything

other than go fast and win. "I wish I could have gotten (87) but not at the risk of the rest of my life," she said.

The numbers Vonn put up over the years are staggering, even if just one gold medal in four Olympics seems not nearly enough. More importantly, perhaps, Vonn put a face — most often a smiling one — on a sport that was in desperate need of a star.

"She is a PR machine, if you want, for our sport," said Gian-Franco Kasper, president of the International Ski Federation.

She was on this final week, with a crash and then a medal that was like a mini soap opera of her entire career. The sun came out just as she prepared to enter the gate for one last time, and Stenmark himself was waiting at the bottom of the hill with a giant spray of flowers.

The nerves went away, the pain subsided ever so briefly. Then Vonn went flying down the hill on a magical run that Hollywood couldn't have scripted any better.

"Just a perfect day for downhill," Vonn said. And a perfect way to say goodbye to a legend. □

Mickelson finishes off a 5th win at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Phil Mickelson is closing in on three decades on the PGA Tour and a half-century on Earth, and he still feels his best golf is good enough.

He was at his best at Pebble Beach, and no one had a chance.

A Monday finish brought on by rain and a freak hail storm was only a minor inconvenience for the 48-year-old Mickelson. He played two holes just as well as the previous 16 and polished off his bogey-free final round with one last birdie for a 7-under 65 and a three-shot victory over Paul Casey in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Mickelson won at Pebble Beach for the fifth time, matching the record set by Mark O'Meara. He has gone 28 years since his first PGA Tour victory and his 44th, and he joined Tiger Woods as the only players to surpass \$90 million in career earnings.

"It's a lot more work and effort to play at this level," Mickelson said. "And I have believed for some time that if I play at my best, it will be good enough to win tournaments. The challenge is getting myself to play my best. It's a lot more work off the course, it's more time in the gym, it's more time eating, it's more time focusing, it's all these things that go into it."

"And so it's gratifying to see the results and to finish it off the way I did."

Making it even more special is Pebble Beach, where he made his pro debut at the U.S. Open in 1992, where he won the first of his five titles in another Monday finish in 1998, this one in August because of rain. It's where his grandfather, Al Santos, was among the first caddies when the course opened in 1919, and Mickelson still uses as a marker the 1900 silver dollar his grandfather kept in his pocket to remind him he was not poor.

There was plenty of sunlight for the Monday morning finish, just no drama.

Mickelson, who started the final round three shots behind, never came close to



Phil Mickelson poses with his trophy on the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament Monday, Feb. 11, 2019, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

a bogey and built a three-shot lead through 16 holes on Sunday night when it was too dark to finish, no matter how hard he lobbied to keep going.

The final round Sunday had been delayed at the start by one hour because of rain, and then sunshine quickly gave way to hail that covered the greens in a sheet of white and led to a two-hour delay.

Mickelson said he could "see just fine" even after sunset, knowing darkness falls quickly on the Monterey Peninsula. Casey could barely see the 3 feet of grass between his ball and the cup on the 16th hole and said there was no way to complete two holes in six minutes. Mickelson was on the 17th tee, shaking his head when he heard the siren to stop play.

On Monday morning, he had a change of heart and said he thanked Casey for standing his ground.

"Paul made the tough call, but it was the right decision in that he protected himself and myself for the competition," Mickelson said. "I just get in my own little bubble and I don't see the big picture."

It worked out well in the end.

Mickelson finished at 19-under 268. Casey needed Mickelson to make a big blunder on the two closing holes, and there was little chance of that. Casey at least birdied the 18th for a 71 to finish alone in second, the difference of \$152,000. He also won the Pro-Am with Don Colleran, the chief sales officer for FedEx. But the final day, and all week, was about the age-

less Mickelson.

This was the fourth time that Casey had a 54-hole lead of at least two shots on the PGA Tour and failed to win. The other three times he was 2-over par or worse in the final round. This time, he closed with a 71 and lost to Mickelson's 65, which matched the low score of the final round.

"A phenomenal round of golf," Casey said.

Mickelson's longest putt for par was 4 feet. He played the final 26 holes in cold, damp and windy weather without a bogey.

How it bodes for the rest of the year — particularly in June when the U.S. Open returns to Pebble Beach — was of little concern to Mickelson. The U.S. Open remains the final piece of the career Grand Slam for Mickelson, who already

holds the record with six runner-up finishes. He finished three shots behind Graeme McDowell in 2010, the last U.S. Open at Pebble.

And while the fairway lines already have been cut much tighter at Pebble, the conditions were so soft that balls plugged in the fairway when they landed and greens easily held shots even from the rough.

"It's nothing like the course we'll see," Mickelson said. "I'll deal with that in six months."

Mickelson lives for the moment. He says he had as much fun winning at Pebble Beach as when he finished one shot behind in the Desert Classic three weeks ago.

It's the thrill of competition. And even at 48, that never gets old. □

Georgiev makes 55 saves, Rangers beat Maple Leafs 4-1

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexander Georgiev had a career-high 55 saves in the New York Rangers' 4-1 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Sunday night. Mika Zibanejad, Jimmy Vesey and Adam McQuaid scored to help the Rangers finished their homestand at 2-2-1. Kevin Hayes added an empty-netter, and Mats Zuccarello and Chris Kreider each had two assists. Kasperi Kapanen scored for the Maple Leafs. They had won four in a row. Toronto had a season-high 56 shots, forcing Georgiev to be at his best throughout. He is the seventh goalie in franchise history with 50 or more saves.

BLACKHAWKS 5, RED WINGS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Dominik Kahun had two goals and an assist, Cam Ward made 43 saves and Chicago beat Detroit for its seventh straight victory.

Chicago's second line of Kahun, Dylan Strome and Alex DeBrincat delivered once again to help the Blackhawks continue their surprising push after a lackluster first half of the season. Strome had a goal and two assists, and DeBrincat had three assists to extend his career-best points streak to eight games.

After Detroit pulled within one in the third period, Patrick Kane responded for Chicago with his 33rd goal. Kane made it 4-2 when he beat Jonathan Bernier low on the stick side with 3:33 left, extending the NHL's longest active points streak to 14 games. Kane tacked



New York Rangers goaltender Alexander Georgiev (40) eyes the puck as Toronto Maple Leafs center John Tavares (91) attempts to get his stick on the puck during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

on an assist on Jonathan Toews' empty-netter with 2:01 remaining. It was Toews' 25th of the season. Gustav Nyquist and Christoffer Ehn scored for Detroit.

LIGHTMING 5, PANTHERS 2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Nikita Kucherov had two goals and an assist to lift Tampa Bay past Florida.

Brayden Point, Ryan Callahan and Steven Stamkos also scored for the Lightning. Louis Domingue made 25 saves, and Anton Stralman had two assists. Denis Malgin and Frank Vatrano scored for the Panthers. James Reimer allowed three goals on 12 shots before being replaced by Roberto Luongo to start the third period. Luongo made nine stops.

BRUINS 2, AVALANCHE 1,

OT

BOSTON (AP) — Brad Marchand scored 4:03 into overtime and Boston beat Colorado to extend its points streak to seven games.

Patrice Bergeron left the puck at the top of the right circle for Marchand, who skated into the slot and fired it past goalie Semyon Varlamov to extend his franchise record with 14 overtime goals.

John Moore also scored, and Jaroslav Halak made 35 saves to help the Bruins improve to 4-0-3 in their last seven. Nathan MacKinnon scored his 29th goal for Colorado, tying Gabriel Landeskog for the team lead. The Avalanche have lost seventh in a row (0-3-3), but earned a point with a

third straight overtime loss.

JETS 3, SABRES 1

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Blake Wheeler scored the go-ahead goal with 3:55 remaining and Winnipeg beat Buffalo to snap an 0-2-1 skid.

Connor Hellebuyck made 35 saves to help the Jets end their longest winless streak of the season and maintain the Central Division lead. At 35-18-3, Winnipeg earned its 73rd point to move two ahead of Nashville after the Predators' 5-4 overtime loss to St. Louis earlier in the day.

Andrew Copp also scored and Mark Scheifele sealed the win by scoring into an open net in the final seconds.

Jack Eichel scored for Buffalo.

ISLANDERS 2, WILD 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Devon Toews scored the tiebreaking goal early in the second period, Thomas Greiss stopped 26 shots and New York beat Minnesota.

Anthony Beauvillier also scored for Metropolitan Division-leading New York. The Islander won for the fourth time in five games and ninth in 12 (9-1-2).

Mikael Granlund scored for the Wild. They lost for the fifth time in six games (1-3-2).

BLUES 5, PREDATORS 4, OT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Vladimir Tarasenko completed a hat trick 16 seconds into overtime and St. Louis beat Nashville to sweep a home-and-home set with their season-best sixth straight victory.

Alex Pietrangelo and Tyler Bozak also scored and Jake Allen made 40 saves. The Blues beat the Predators 3-2 on Saturday in St. Louis. Viktor Arvidsson scored twice, and Roman Josi and Filip Forsberg also scored for Nashville.

DEVILS 3, HURRICANES 2

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Marcus Johansson scored twice, Keith Kinkaid made 32 saves and New Jersey prevented Carolina from moving into a playoff spot. Nico Hischier set up all three goals to help the Devils snap the Hurricanes' three-game winning streak and hand them only their fifth loss (13-5-1) in 19 games. Pavel Zacha also scored for the Devils.

Dougie Hamilton and Teuvo Teravainen scored for Carolina, and Petr Mrazek made 18 saves. □



Los Angeles Kings' Nate Thompson, left, celebrates his goal next to Boston Bruins defenseman Torey Krug during the third period of an NHL hockey game Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019, in Boston.

Associated Press

Kings trade Nate Thompson to Canadiens

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Los Angeles Kings have traded forward Nate Thompson and a fifth-round pick to the Montreal Canadiens for a fourth-round pick.

Each pick is in the 2019 draft. The teams announced the trade Monday before the

Kings faced the defending Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals. Thompson has four goals and two assists in 53 games for Los Angeles this season. He has won 53.3 percent of his faceoffs and ranks 34th in the NHL. The 34-year-old is a pending free agent

who carries a \$1.65 million salary-cap hit for the rest of the season.

The fourth-round pick the Kings got from the Canadiens is the Calgary Flames' selection. The fifth-round pick they sent to Montreal with Thompson is Arizona's selection. □



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Embiid leads Sixers past LeBron-led Lakers, 143-120

By DAVE ZEITLIN

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Magic Johnson and LeBron James have captured eight NBA titles between them. With Johnson in the stands and James on the court, the Philadelphia 76ers showed off their own championship potential.

Joel Embiid had 37 points and 14 rebounds, Tobias Harris scored 22 points in his second game with Philadelphia, and the new-look 76ers beat James and the Los Angeles Lakers 143-120 on Sunday.

JJ Redick added 21 points for the Sixers, who have won two straight after acquiring Harris and four others at Thursday's trade deadline. Jimmy Butler finished with 15 points in front of a packed Philly crowd that brought a playoff-like feel to the nationally televised game. "The East better watch out," said Johnson, the Lakers president who made the trip to Philly for the game. "This is a stacked team."

Kyle Kuzma led the Lakers with 39 points while James had 18 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

James was facing Philadelphia for the first time since the Sixers made a big push to sign the superstar as a free agent last summer. He and Kuzma both missed the last matchup with Philly on Jan. 29, which the Sixers won 121-105. "I thought they were going to be very good anyway before they made any moves, before the season even started," James said. "And they've made a bunch of moves to improve their club." Fresh off a buzzer-beating win at Boston, the Lakers shot nearly 60 percent and scored 40 points in the first quarter. But fueled by Redick's four-point play, the Sixers closed the first half on a 19-6 run to take a 76-67 lead into halftime. Embiid, who was questionable to play because of gastroenteritis, led the charge with 25 points in the first half after lighting up the Lakers for 28 in the teams' first matchup.

"I must not be a big LA fan," said Embiid, who had his league-leading 23rd game with at least 30 points and 10 rebounds. "It's fun. I've been more consistent against both LA teams."

Philadelphia's lead ballooned to 109-94 at the end of the third quarter after

T.J. McConnell's 3-pointer in the closing seconds. The Sixers ran away with the game from there while gleeful fans chanted "Kobe's better" at James.

WARRIORS 120, HEAT 118

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 39 points and DeMarcus Cousins made two free throws with 5.4 seconds to play that helped Golden State cap a comeback from a 19-point deficit in the first quarter to beat Miami. Cousins rebounded a missed 3-pointer by Durant and drew a foul, setting the stage for his winning free throws that gave the Warriors their 11th double-digit comeback of the season, and second straight after rallying from 17 points down in the first quarter Friday in Phoenix.

Klay Thompson scored 29 points and Stephen Curry added 25 for Golden State. Josh Richardson helped shoot Miami to the big early lead and finished with a career-high 37 points with help from eight 3-pointers.

MAVERICKS 102, TRAIL BLAZERS 101

DALLAS (AP) — Luka Doncic scored 28 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. had 24 and Dallas erased a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Portland.

Doncic also had nine rebounds and six assists. Damian Lillard scored 21 of his 30 points in the last half of the third quarter to help the Blazers build a lead that grew to 96-81 early in the fourth.

KINGS 117, SUNS 104

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Marvin Bagley III had a career-high 32 points and six rebounds and Sacramento handed Phoenix its 14th straight loss.

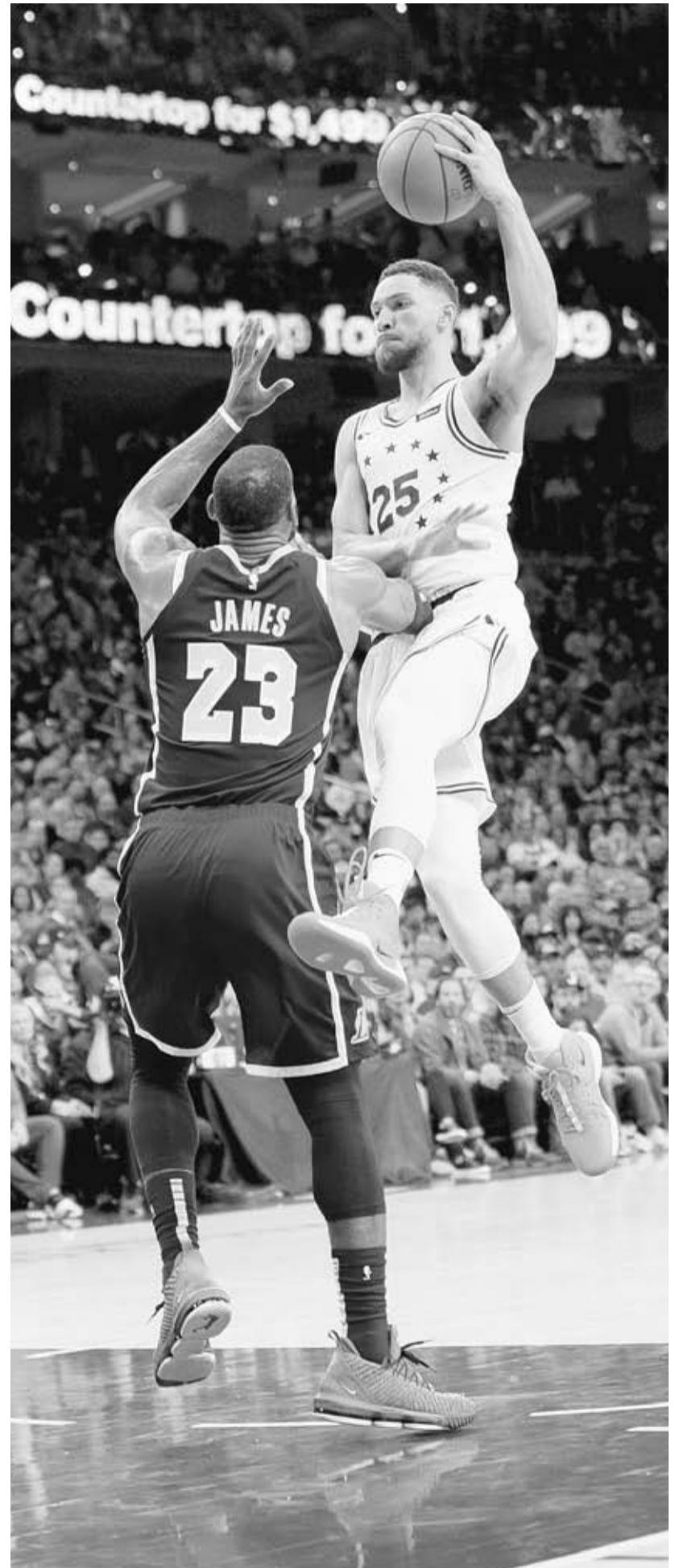
Buddy Hield scored 18 points, De'Aaron Fox had 17 points and nine assists, and Nemanja Bjelica added 10 points and eight rebounds to help Sacramento win for the fifth time in six games.

Devin Booker had 27 points, eight rebounds and six assists in his return from injury for Phoenix. The Suns' losing streak is one shy of the franchise record set last season.

MAGIC 124, HAWKS 108

ATLANTA (AP) — All-Star Nikola Vucevic had 19 points and 2 rebounds, leading Orlando past Atlanta.

Alex Len led the Hawks with 16 points, despite picking up four fouls in the first half. □



Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons, right, of Australia, goes up for the shot as he is fouled by Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Philadelphia. The 76ers won 143-120.

Associated Press

Browns sign troubled running back Kareem Hunt

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Browns' signing of Kareem Hunt once again shines a spotlight somewhere other than the team's on-field performance.

Hunt, who was released 2½ months ago by Kansas City after a video surfaced showing the star running back pushing and kicking a woman, signed with Cleveland on Monday.

Hunt was placed on the NFL's commissioner's exempt list hours before the Chiefs released him, a move that drew public support after he was seen in a physical altercation with the woman last February during an argument in the lobby of a downtown hotel where he stayed.

He was in his second season with Kansas City and was one of the team's best players. He led the NFL in rushing as a rookie in 2017. The Browns are now giving the 23-year-old, who is from Cleveland, a chance to restart his career, though he still could be suspended by the league under its personal conduct policy for the incident and two others that surfaced after he was released by the Chiefs. Hunt has not been charged



In this Nov. 19, 2018, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt warms up before an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

with a crime. An NFL investigation is ongoing.

And the Browns, coming off a tumultuous 7-8-1 season that followed an 0-16 record in 2017 — with a new coach after Hue Jackson was fired midseason in 2018 — are creating headlines by giving a player a second chance even as the NFL has not yet decided Hunt's status.

Browns general manager John Dorsey drafted Hunt while working for Kansas City and said their relationship was an "important part

of this decision-making process."

"But we then did extensive due diligence with many individuals, including clinical professionals, to have a better understanding of the person he is today and whether it was prudent to sign him," said Dorsey, who was Kansas City's GM from 2013-16. "There were two important factors: One is that Kareem took full responsibility for his egregious actions and showed true remorse and secondly, just as importantly, he is under-

going and is committed to necessary professional treatment and a plan that has been clearly laid out." Dorsey went on to say the Browns "fully understand and respect the complexity of questions and issues in signing a player with Kareem's history and do not condone his actions. Given what we know about Kareem through our extensive research, we believe he deserves a second chance but certainly with the understanding that he has to go through critical and es-

sential steps to become a performing member of this organization, aside from what the NFL determines from their ongoing investigation."

Dorsey added that the Browns have given Hunt "detailed plans with expectations laid out that he understands and must follow." He said any similar incident will not be tolerated.

In a statement released by the team, Hunt expressed remorse and thanked the Browns for giving him an opportunity.

"First off, I would like to once again apologize for my actions last year," Hunt said. "What I did was wrong and inexcusable. That is not the man I was raised to be, and I've learned a great deal from that experience and certainly should have been more truthful about it after the fact. I'm extremely grateful that John Dorsey, Dee and Jimmy Haslam and the Cleveland Browns organization are granting me the opportunity to earn their trust and represent their organization in the best way possible on and off the field.

"I am committed to following the necessary steps to learn and to be a better and healthier person from this situation. □

Mariners arrive early to begin preparing for opener in Japan

By JACK MAGRUDER

Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — If nothing else, the Seattle Mariners' early arrival for spring training will give them a little more meet-and-greet time.

The Mariners have 20 new players, including seven projected new starters, on their training camp roster this spring after an offseason overhaul following an 89-victory 2018 that still left them eight games out of the playoffs.

"I've been studying mugs of these guys to get a feeling. It's going to be a little bit different camp with all the new people," manager Scott Servais said Monday. "A lot of educating

to do. Name tags would be good. Mandatory wear your jersey out there with the name on the back."

The most notable new face is left-hander Yusei Kikuchi, who is expected to start one of the two games the Mariners will play in his native Japan. Seattle reported to spring training a day earlier than most to prepare for the season-opening series against Oakland in Tokyo on March 20-21. Kikuchi, who signed a four-year, \$56 million contract in the offseason, has been in camp about a week and already thrown several times.

"I did get a chance to see Kikuchi throw a bullpen yesterday. I really liked it,"

Servais said. "I like how he is going about it. This time of spring, you are not looking for top velocity or the crispness to the breaking balls. But his approach to how he is going about it has been fantastic."

Eighteen of the 34 pitchers in camp are new, Servais estimated, and pitching coach Paul Davis also joined the staff after spending the last six years in the St. Louis Cardinals organization, most recently as the manager of the pitching analytics.

"With the new coaches and new players, I'm so happy when they come up and introduce themselves to me," Servais said. New position players in-

clude outfielders Jay Bruce, Domingo Santana, Mallek Smith and, for now, DH Edwin Encarnacion. Dee Gordon, who was moved to center field last season, will return to his natural position at second base.

The bullpen composition is the least known quantity entering spring training following the trade of closer Edwin Diaz, who with Robinson Cano was dealt to the Mets for Bruce and others. Diaz saved a franchise-record and AL-high 57 games last season.

Hunter Strickland, Cory Gearrin and Zac Rosscup signed one-year contracts as free agents this winter to join Shawn Armstrong,

Chasen Bradford and Dan Altavilla. Gerson Bautista was acquired in the Bruce trade.

"We traded a lot of guys with established roles at the back end of the bullpen, so it creates a lot of opportunity for guys coming in," Servais said.

"We certainly have stuff. We have guys that throw hard and have good breaking balls. The biggest thing we have to offer is opportunity. Who takes it and runs with it, we'll find out."

Relief candidates Anthony Swarzak and Sam Tuivailala and will be delayed at the start of camp because of medical issues, Servais said. □

Hendrick sends statement with sweep at Daytona

By JENNA FRYER

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Rick Hendrick was telling the truth when he insisted this year was going to be much improved from last season, the worst in team history.

He moved personnel and split up seven-time NASCAR Cup champions Jimmie Johnson and Chad Knaus. He had a Navy SEAL deliver an inspirational speech to all of Hendrick Motorsports, met with all four of his teams and held luncheons and team-building events. When he sent his teams to Daytona for the 36th time, he sent them to win.

Message delivered.

Hendrick horsepower routed the competition in qualifying for the Daytona 500 with a 1-2-3-4 sweep for Chevrolet. A few hours later, Johnson finally won a race after none last season.

Hendrick Motorsports is now 2-for-2 at Speedweeks with the front row for Sunday's season-opening Daytona 500 and Johnson's victory in the exhibition Clash. The proud Hendrick organization is using NASCAR's biggest stage to show how serious the boss is about rebounding from 2018, when Johnson was winless for the first time in his career, Alex Bowman and William Byron had forgettable first seasons, and Chase Elliott's three late victories were among the few bright spots.

"Last year sucked. I ain't gonna do that no more," Hendrick told The Associated Press just one week before his cars left North Carolina for Daytona.

If this was a sequel to "Days of Thunder," with Randy Quaid again playing a version of Hendrick, the car owner might guarantee a Daytona 500 victory. Hendrick, after all, is from a romantic time in NASCAR when a car salesman from Virginia could scrape together the money to en-

ter the Daytona 500 and turn a fledgling little Chevrolet team into one of the most valuable properties in sports. He still believes that with hard work and the right people, a team can step back and admire a glistening race car, confident that girl is a winner. Hendrick still has his folksy Southern charm, still longs for those simpler days of racing, still wants to arrive in Daytona knowing his cars are the very best in the field.

So consider Sunday the first day in a new era at Hendrick Motorsports, where William Byron and Alex Bowman gave NASCAR its youngest front row in Daytona 500 history by qualifying first and second. Byron recently turned 21 and begins his second season with Knaus, who split with Johnson after 17 years.

Knaus made a statement in 2002 when he and Johnson debuted at Daytona and won the pole in their first race together. He opened this chapter of his career the same way: winning the pole with Byron in their first race together at the Daytona 500.

It was the fifth consecutive year a Hendrick car has won the pole for the Daytona 500 and it was the 700th pole for Chevrolet, the only partner Hendrick has had in racing. As Hendrick last season worked through a massive personnel consolidation, Chevrolet struggled with its NASCAR introduction of the Camaro and won just four of 36 Cup races.

Rolling off the trucks as the four fastest cars for the Daytona 500 was an important message for the carmaker and its flagship team.

"Well, you know, Chevrolet has been awfully good to me," Hendrick said. "That was my first dealership. It's all I've ever raced. It's all my dad ever raced. That bowtie, we're bowtie-proud. What a great day



Team owner Rick Hendrick, center, celebrates his 700th pole award with drivers, from left, Chase Elliott, Alex Bowman, Hendrick, William Byron and Jimmie Johnson after qualifying for the Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

for Chevrolet, our organization, and these drivers. I'm really proud."

And that was before Johnson bulldozed his way into victory lane.

Johnson is tired of losing and tired of social media trolls telling him he should retire. He also was under mounting pressure from his youngest daughter, who had prayed every night for Daddy to win again.

Johnson's opportunity came as a race-ending rainstorm descended on Daytona International Speedway. It was time to go, and his aggressive pass on Paul Menard triggered a 16-car wreck in a field of 20. It was what he had to do to win an exhibition race worth little more than a trophy, and he was unremorseful as he watched video replays that showed

him causing the crash.

Johnson for a year has insisted he can still win a record eighth championship, and now he must do it with first-year Cup crew chief Kevin Meendering. Just as Knaus used qualifying to prove he's motivated in his new role, Johnson used the Clash to prove he's got a lot of fight left in him.

The best car rarely wins the Daytona 500. And the racing formula for the showcase race is unlike the remainder of the NASCAR schedule, in which a completely different rules package will be used to determine the champion. These season-opening wins at Daytona are morale victories, nothing more. But it's exactly what Hendrick needed for his team to show it will be better this year. □

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AP Explains: The promise of 5G wireless - speed, hype, risk

By MAE ANDERSON and
TALI ARBEL

NEW YORK (AP) — A much-hyped network upgrade called "5G" means different things to different people. To industry proponents, it's the next huge innovation in wireless internet. To the U.S. government, it's the backbone technology of a future that America will wrestle with China to control. To many average people, it's simply a mystery.

The technology is one of the issues expected to take center stage at the MWC mobile conference in Barcelona, Spain, this month. The interest goes well beyond engineers: In Washington, there are fears that China could take the lead in developing the technology and sell equipment that could be used to spy on Americans.

What, exactly, is 5G wireless — and will you even notice when it comes online?



In this Jan. 9, 2019, file photo a sign advertises 5G at the Qualcomm booth at CES International in Las Vegas. 5G is a new technical standard for wireless networks that promises faster speeds; less lag, or "latency," when connecting to the network; and the ability to connect many devices to the internet without bogging it down.

Associated Press

WHAT IS 5G?

5G is a new technical standard for wireless networks

— the fifth, naturally — that promises faster speeds; less lag, or "latency," when

connecting to the network; and the ability to connect many devices to the internet without bogging it down. 5G networks will ideally be better able to handle more users, lots of sensors and heavy traffic.

Before we can all use it, wireless companies and phone makers have to upgrade. Phones need new chips and radio antennas. The phone you have today won't work with a 5G network.

Wireless companies have been getting ready. They've been revamping their network equipment, buying up chunks of radio spectrum for carrying 5G signals, and installing new 5G antennas on cellphone towers, utility poles and streetlights. Wireless providers will invest \$275 billion in 5G-related networks in the U.S., according to CTIA, an industry trade group.

WHEN WILL IT BE AVAILABLE?

ABLE?

A true U.S. mobile rollout will start in 2019. It will take a few years to go national, and even then more rural areas of the country will not be covered in the "millimeter wave" frequencies that promise the highest data speeds and capacities, said Michael Thelander, CEO of wireless consultancy Signals Research Group. Thelander predicts that China may lag the U.S. by a year in its initial rollout, but will ultimately have the biggest deployment, while European countries will build out more slowly.

Beware of confusion, though. Wireless carriers have a history of rushing to slap the latest-and-greatest label on their networks, and this time is no different. AT&T has already applied the name 5G on a service that's not really 5G. (Sprint, upset, then sued its larger rival.)

Once the network is ready, you'll need a 5G-enabled phone to connect to it. The first ones should be available in the first half of 2019, but a 5G iPhone isn't expected until 2020. 5G phones will most likely be more expensive than current 4G phones. Don't worry, even when 5G turns on, you can keep using 4G phones, just not at 5G speeds.

WHAT CAN 5G DO?

There's a considerable amount of hype over the promise of 5G. Industry groups say it will promote smart cities by connecting sensor networks that could manage traffic and quickly identify streetlight outages. 5G could connect self-driving cars and fuel new applications in virtual and augmented reality. Its high-speed connections could enable better remote surgery and other telemedicine, help companies automate their factories and offer businesses dedicated high-speed internet lanes.

"5G speeds, and ever-faster home broadband, will mean that existing applications will get richer, and also that new applications will emerge — new Flickrs, YouTubes or Snapchats. □

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Liz Weston: Companies are also flunking retirement planning

By LIZ WESTON
Associated Press

Plenty has been written about American workers' failure to plan adequately for retirement. Their employers seem to be doing an even worse job. Only 1 in 10 large employers offers a formal phased-retirement program that lets workers cut back their hours or responsibilities before they quit work entirely, according to the 2018 Longer Working Careers Survey by professional services consultant Willis Towers Watson. Fewer than 1 in 3 of the companies surveyed offered their employees the option to work part time or switch to a less demanding job, according to the survey, which polled 143 large U.S. companies that employ 2.9 million people. That's too bad, because flexible work arrangements don't just help people who need or want to work longer. These accommodations also could help workers who are starting families, pursuing degrees or caring for aging parents.

PROGRAMS VARY WIDELY
Formal phased retirement programs can take many forms. Examples cited in a 2017 report by the Government Accountability Office include:

—One program that allows workers who are at least 55 years old with 10 years of service to cut their hours by 20 percent with a 20 percent cut in pay, but keep

health insurance and pension accrual benefits.

—Another that allows employees 60 and older with five years of service to reduce their hours by 20 percent to 50 percent, or even more if they're willing to lose their health insurance benefit.

—An employer that allows workers 55 and older with seven years of service to negotiate their own "glide path" to retirement, ramping down from full time to full retirement while retaining benefits.

—Yet another company that allows any employee to switch to less stressful or complex duties or phase to part-time work, retaining health insurance if they work at least 25 hours a week.

Employers that offer phased retirement typically say the plans are good for business, the GAO report found.

Phased retirement allows both the company and the worker to adjust over time, rather than scrambling to deal with an abrupt departure. Businesses can plan better since they know well in advance when an employee plans to leave, plus they can arrange for experienced workers to train or mentor younger ones, transferring years (and sometimes decades) of employer-specific knowledge.

"Otherwise, years of institutional knowledge could be



This April 2017 file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

walking out the door," says Susan Weinstock, vice president for financial resiliency programming at AARP.

FOR EMPLOYERS, RETIREMENT CAN DRAIN TALENT AND KNOWLEDGE

Most employers realize retirement is a looming issue, with 83 percent of the large employers Willis Towers Watson polled saying significant numbers of their workers are approaching retirement age. In fact, 54 percent of employers believe the loss of talent from retiring workers will be more significant than other labor market risks in the next five years, the survey found.

Employers may not fully grasp, however, how many

people may need to keep working because they haven't saved enough, says retirement trends expert Catherine Collinson, CEO and president of the nonprofit Transamerica Institute and Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies.

For example, 7 out of 10 employers polled in last year's Transamerica Survey of Employers Were confident that their workers would retire with adequate retirement savings. But 6 out of 10 employees had similar confidence. (Studies by the Employee Benefit Research Institute have found that 57 percent of U.S. households headed by people ages 35 to 64 are on track with re-

tirement savings.)
EMPLOYEES CAN BE AFRAID TO ASK

Another disconnect: Employers often think their employees aren't interested in more flexible schedules or phased retirements, because workers haven't asked. But employees may be afraid to inquire, lest they seem less than gung-ho about their jobs or get shoved out the door before they're ready, Collinson says.

"Employees may not want to tip their hands," she says. Flexible schedules and phased retirements aren't panaceas, of course. For many, continuing to work simply won't be an option.

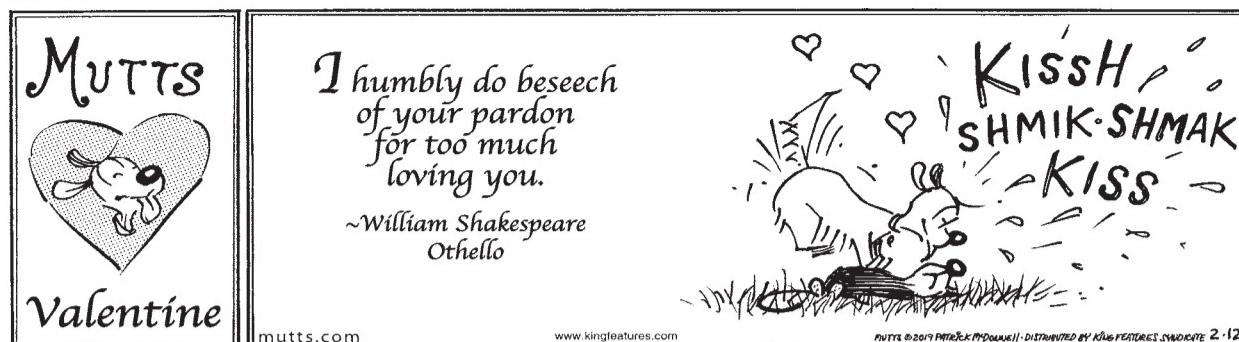
The Employee Benefit Research Institute found that nearly half of workers retired earlier than they expected for reasons that included layoffs, health issues or the need to care for someone else.

You may think you'll work until you die, in other words, but chances are pretty good that you won't.

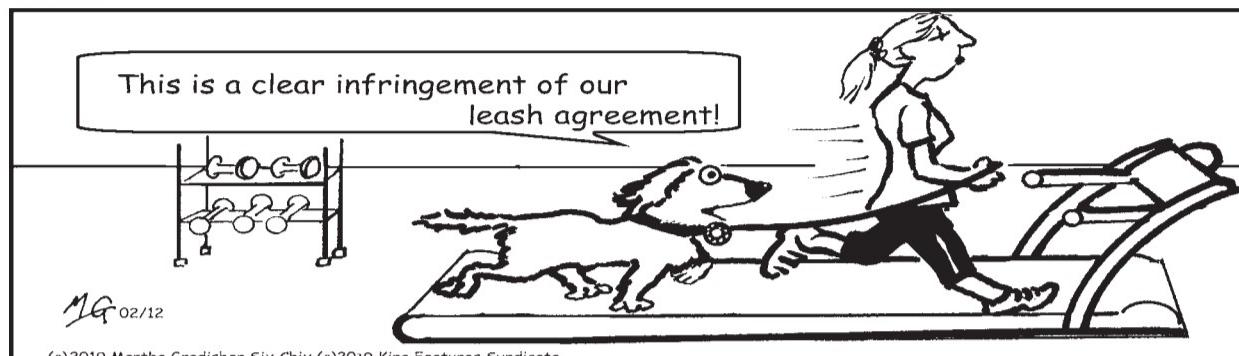
Those who do want to work longer, and can, may have to take matters into their own hands. Collinson says people can improve their odds of negotiating a phased retirement by keeping their job skills up to date and focusing on job performance.

"A superstar is going to have greater negotiating power than the average employee," she says. □

Mutts



6 Chix



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Blondie



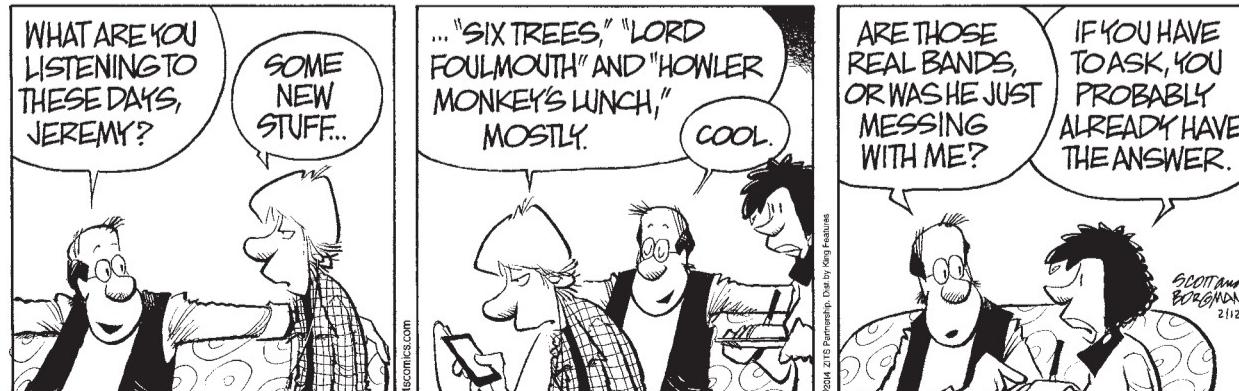
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8	3		1					
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7	1							
9	8	1		3	2			
2	4	9	7	6				
					5	9		
3	8	5	2					
	5		8	2				

Difficulty Level ★★

2/12
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3	8	5	4	1	9	6	2	7
4	9	7	6	2	3	1	5	8
1	2	6	8	7	5	3	4	9
2	3	9	1	5	6	8	7	4
7	6	8	3	9	4	2	1	5
5	1	4	2	8	7	9	3	6
8	7	1	9	4	2	5	6	3
9	5	3	7	6	1	4	8	2
6	4	2	5	3	8	7	9	1

Yesterday's puzzle answer

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48	49	50							51	52	53	
56									57			58
60									61			62
63									64			65

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/12/19

Monday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	M	D	W	A	R	F	S	C	A	M
M	O	V	E	R	R	O	R	H	O	B	O
J	O	E	L	F	I	C	T	I	T	I	O
F	D	R	P	A	T	H	S	R	E	T	S
S	L	A	M	S	L	O	L				
C	A	P	O	N	E	W	O	D	E		
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P	I	N	S	S	P	O	N	W	E	P	
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2/12/19

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|----|------------------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 35 | In just a bit | 47 | Grab |
| 38 | Prehistoric | 48 | Apartment |
| 39 | Like folks from | 49 | Actor Rob |
| | Ankara | 50 | Elderly |
| 41 | "A mind is a terrible __ to waste" | 52 | Long story |
| 30 | Vane direction | 53 | Mini blind piece |
| 31 | Circular | 54 | Imitated |
| 32 | California athlete | 55 | Title for Tennyson |
| 33 | Unkempt | 44 | Actor James |
| | | 45 | Impede; hamper |
| | | 59 | Ball holder |

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1 BR WK # 11 \$8000
3rd Floor Garden view
1 BR Wk # 12 \$9000
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1 br wk 13 &14 \$9,000 each
3rd floor pool/ ocean view

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Ground floor \$7000 each
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Dutch Village
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26 weeks remain \$8000

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The map shows the layout of downtown Aruba. Key locations marked include the Royal Plaza Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard, Weststraat, High Rose Hotels, and Caya G.F. Bellico Cross. A magnifying glass icon highlights the TODAY and BONDIA buildings, which are located on Weststraat near the Royal Plaza Mall. The word "Downtown" is written at the bottom of the map.

Scientists hope DNA in water could be way to save rare fish

By PATRICK WHITTLE

PORLTAND, Maine (AP) —

Scientists in Maine are using DNA to try to preserve the remaining populations of a fish that lives in 14 lakes and ponds in the state and nowhere else in the continental United States.

The scientists are turning their eye to the Arctic charr, which is a species of landlocked fish in Maine that has lived in the state for millennia and is prized by anglers. The charr face threats such as invasive predators and a warming climate. They are also notoriously elusive, making them difficult for researchers to track.

Michael Kinnison, a professor of evolutionary applications at University of Maine, and other scientists are working with the state to make sure the fish keep surviving. Kinnison is working on a project to collect "environmental DNA" from the water bodies where the fish live.

The project involves collecting water samples from the lakes and ponds where the fish are known to live, and studying DNA that they and other organisms shed, Kinnison said. It'll provide vital information scientists can use to keep charr populations stable, he said. It's also a much less invasive and time-consuming way



In this Oct. 26, 2018 photo, University of Maine graduate student Brad Erdman holds an Arctic charr, left, and a brook trout, right, at Floods Pond near Otis, Maine.

Associated Press

than older methods, such as using nets, Kinnison said. "If your only tool to count a species is a gillnet, and there's not many, do you make the tough choice to risk killing the individuals to find them?" he said. "It's a way to get an idea of where organisms are located and do it in a way that presents really no harm." Arctic charr live at the top of the world, including in northern Canada and Alaska. They're known to seafood lovers because they're farmed for use as

food. But to find one in the lower 48 states, an angler can only go to one of a group of remote, rural ponds and lakes in Maine, some of which are barely accessible to humans. The project to collect their DNA in Maine launched in 2017, and is expected to continue through this summer, said Brad Erdman, a University of Maine ecology graduate student who is working on it. A local chapter of Trout Unlimited, an environmental nonprofit, is working on the project us-

ing grant money provided by the organization's Embrace-A-Stream fund.

One of the biggest threats to the charr is the presence of invasive rainbow smelt, a species of small fish that competes with charr for food and are suspected of eating charr's young. The charr were the subject of a yearslong project to eradicate the smelt from Big Reed Pond in northern Piscataquis County to save the charr's population there. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wild-

life confirmed in June 2017 that the charr are spawning in the pond again.

Using environmental DNA can help make sure the smelt don't gain a foothold in other bodies of water where the charr live, said Francis Brautigam, the director of fisheries for the state wildlife department. The smelt have been illegally introduced in Bald Mountain Pond in northeast Somerset County, where charr populations have dropped, he said, and controlling the situation is a priority.

"Our agency has been pretty responsive to ensuring those populations remain on our landscape," Brautigam said. Igor Sikorsky, a northern Maine camp owner and air taxi bush pilot, worked with the state on efforts to save the charr population on Big Reed Pond. He said the move toward using advanced tools such as environmental DNA is a smart one, because the fish are a unique part of the state's natural landscape and are jeopardized by climate change. The fish like cold water, and they're at the very southern end of their range in Maine. "Who knows if this is the end, or if we are able to stabilize it," Sikorsky said. "So far, so good is the best you can say." □



In this Oct. 13, 2016, file photo, a dolphin plays in the water at Dolphinaris in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Associated Press

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Desert attraction temporarily closes after 4 dolphin deaths

PHOENIX (AP) — Dolphinaris Arizona opened in the metro Phoenix desert two years ago as marine parks elsewhere were scaling back exhibits amid criticism of the treatment of animals. Animal rights advocates took aim at Dolphinaris as well, saying that putting dolphins in pools on tribal land in the desert was tantamount to animal cruelty. Since its opening, four dolphins have died, with the latest death occurring Jan. 31 when a 22-year-old dolphin named Kai had difficulty swimming, eating and breathing.

Dolphinaris Arizona said it

will close temporarily beginning Friday as a panel of experts investigates potential factors in the dolphin deaths. Two of the facility's four remaining dolphins are being returned to Dolphin Quest, a company that loans dolphins to attractions, while the other two will be moved to another licensed facility while Dolphinaris Arizona is being evaluated. Federal regulators said Wednesday they have done four inspections of Dolphinaris since it opened and they haven't taken any enforcement actions or issued any citations. However, the U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said it's aware of the latest dolphin death and is "working on the next course of action." It declined to elaborate.

Dolphinaris Arizona is one of five dolphin parks operated by Mexico City-based Ventura Entertainment. The others are in Mexico.

The facility near Phoenix is believed to be the first newly constructed dolphin facility in the United States in a decade. It lets people swim and play with dolphins in pools on the edge of a dirt and cactus landscape. □

Longchamp's woman takes a NY Fashion Week trip to Paris

By MORGAN EVANS

NEW YORK (AP) — Models Kendall Jenner and Liu Wen took a break from the catwalk to sit front row for Longchamp's second appearance at New York Fashion Week, and creative director Sophie Delafontaine couldn't have been happier.

Delafontaine told The Associated Press she was moved by New York City's concrete jungle to tell the season's story of a woman traveling from the Big Apple to Paris.

"It's really a mix of this Parisian attitude, effortless, natural, very elegant woman with a lot of felinity, and black and white mixed with a lot of graphic, and New York spirit — and very colorful also," she said.

And who embodies the on-the-go Paris to New York girl perfectly? Jenner, who is the face of the brand, said Delafontaine at Saturday's show.

"She is very American, but I think she is maybe the most Parisienne one out of all of those American girls. She has also a touch of Parisienne in her lifestyle. I like her free spirit, which is also very Longchamp," the designer said.



The Longchamp Paris collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019.

Associated Press

The fall-winter ready-to-wear collection was the story of a feminine tough girl fond of studded, leather minis, bold black and white graphic tops and pants accessorized with chunky patent and animal print waist belts.

There were also 1970s-in-

spired knit tops styled over flowy whimsical dresses and ruffled skirts paired with airy, equestrian-style blouses. Plus cropped vests over bold, electric prints and funky patterns. Each model sported a signature Longchamp handbag.

Cindy Crawford's daugh-

ter, Kaia Gerber, who is following in her famous mother's catwalk footsteps, modeled the second to last look of the show.

Wen is a fan of the decade depicted.

"I really love the collection because it's like a later '70s style. The girl is very cool, so

they are very strong," she said.

Emma Roberts also sat front row.

"Well, I have been trying to come to a Longchamp show for so long and so excited that they were doing this in New York and it's my birthday tomorrow, so it's like an early celebration getting to dress up in Longchamp clothing and getting to come here," she said.

As for Jenner, she said a few things drew her to the French luxury brand.

"I think something that I really appreciated about them was their sense of Parisienne style but also they find a way to bring in those New York aspects, and of course the whole equestrian thing is what drew me to it, but also the timelessness of it," said Jenner, long known for her love of riding. Does she have a fashion item she can't buy enough of?

"I mean shoes in general," she said. "I am a major shoe addict. Like, I literally can't even walk into a department store without being like 'oh my god — the shoe section.' I have to, like, close my eyes. Literally, it's dangerous for me." □

Don Winslow writes novel about war on drugs

By BRUCE DESILVA

Associated Press

"The Border" (William Morrow), by Don Winslow
Don Winslow's epic trilogy about America's longest war, which he launched with "The Power of the Dog" in 2005 and continued with "The Cartel" in 2015, comes to a powerful and troubling conclusion in his new novel, "The Border."

By "longest war," Winslow does not mean Afghanistan. He means the war on drugs, which is 50 years old and counting.

Although Winslow chose to tell this story as fiction, he spent much of the last 20 years researching his subject on both sides of the border. "The more I learned," he says his introduction, "the angrier I be-

came."

Art Keller, a violent Drug Enforcement Agency undercover operative in the first two novels, returns as the unlikely choice to run the Drug Enforcement Administration. He was reluctant to take the job, but he's come to recognize that his previous efforts have come to naught.

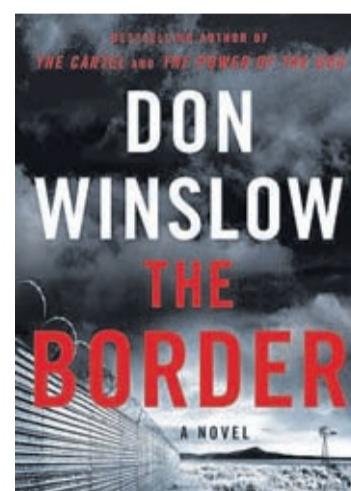
"You're standing on the Rio Grande with a broom ... trying to sweep back the tide of heroin while billionaires are sending jobs overseas, closing factories and towns, killing hopes and dreams, and inflicting pain. Then they tell you to stop the heroin epidemic."

Opiates, he knows, "are a response to pain. ... The difference between a hedge fund manager and a cartel

boss? The Wharton Business School."

So Keller attacks the problem in a new way, seeking to uncover and punish powerful Americans who profit from the drug trade. He zeros in on an American bank that's laundering tens of millions of dollars for the cartels by investing in New York City real estate. Those benefiting from the dirty money, it turns out, include the newly elected president of the United States, whom Winslow coyly names Dennison, and unambiguously models after Donald Trump.

Other characters from the first two books return, and more are added in a novel with a half-dozen subplots ranging from Mexican cartel power struggles to Guan-



This cover image released by William Morrow shows "The Border," a novel by Don Winslow.

Associated Press

temalan child asylum seekers to New York City junkies scrapping for a fix. The novel, written in muscular, fast-paced prose, portrays

torture, assassinations, mass murder, police payoffs, mass incarceration and political corruption from Guatemala to Washington, D.C.

In the end, the words Winslow puts in his protagonist's mouth leave no doubt what his years of research have led him to believe:

"Because drugs are illegal, we send sixty billion dollars a year to the violent sociopaths of the cartels, money that bribes police and politicians and buys the guns that have killed hundreds of thousands of people with no end in sight. The 'Mexican drug' problem is not a Mexican drug problem. It is the American drug problem. We are the buyers, and without buyers, there can be no sellers." □

Ted Bundy's murderous charm still polarizes, 40 years later

By DAN SEWELL

CINCINNATI (AP) — She kept her eyes on the dapper, wavy-haired man who smiled, winked and exuded self-confidence as the courtroom proceedings moved along.

"I don't know what it is he has, but he's fascinating," the teenage spectator explained to me at the time. "He's impressive. He just has a kind of magnetism."

It was that beguiling magnetism that investigators said helped make the object of her interest — Ted Bundy — one of the nation's most prolific serial killers, with at least 30 women and girls' deaths linked to him across multiple states in the late 1970s.

I reported the teenager's comments for The Associated Press' coverage of Bundy's 1979 murder trial in Miami, the first of two murder trials he would have in Florida. She was just one example of a regular courtroom backdrop of spellbound female spectators who were "attractive, young and single," as I wrote at the time, just like the women Bundy



In this photo made available by the Sundance Institute, Zac Efron and Lily Collins appear in "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile," directed by Joe Berlinger, an official selection of the Premieres program at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

Associated Press

was on trial for bludgeoning and sexually assaulting. "I haven't lost any sleep about the verdict," a relaxed, self-assured Bundy told me in a jail-cell interview a few days after the jury swiftly convicted him of murdering two Florida State University sorority sisters and assaulting three other young women in Tallahassee.

Nearly 40 years after that trial, and 30 years after

his death in Florida's electric chair, Bundy's deadly charm continues to captivate and perplex.

Some reactions to a new Netflix documentary series, "Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes," prompted a Twitter appeal to viewers asking them to chill out about his "alleged hotness," adding there are many other attractive men featured on the streaming service who aren't convicted serial killers. Nearly simultaneously, a movie starring heartthrob Zac Efron as Bundy recently made its debut at the Sundance Film Festival with some criticisms that the film, shot last year in the Cincinnati area, glamorizes the killer. A Vanity Fair reviewer wrote that at times, "the movie feels almost sympathetic to Bundy."

Filmmaker Joe Berlinger, who is the director for both projects, acknowledged in a Salt Lake Tribune interview he had tackled "a very polarizing subject" with Bundy, but insisted there's no glorification. His movie hasn't yet been scheduled for wider release. Efron, by the way, isn't the first hunky actor to play Bundy — Mark Harmon starred in the 1986 TV miniseries "The Deliberate Stranger."

The July 1979 trial I helped cover was for Bundy's rampage on Jan. 15, 1978, in Tallahassee, Florida. Armed with an oak limb, Bundy left two Chi Omega sorority sisters dead and three other

women injured. Less than a month later, on Feb. 9, he abducted, sexually assaulted and killed a 12-year-old girl in Lake City, Florida. She was Bundy's final victim in a gruesome series of attacks that claimed the lives of dozens of women in states from Washington to Florida. During the trial, I interviewed other young women in Miami who talked about Bundy's handsome looks and expressive eyes, and also the chilling testimony about his crimes. A University of Washington psychiatry professor talked in a telephone interview about him giving women "Dracula shivers."

Jurors deliberated less than seven hours on July 24, 1979, before convicting Bundy, then 32, of the Chi Omega murders. Three days later, I was assigned to go to Dade County Jail and find out what I could about what he was doing, who was visiting him and whether he was causing problems for jailers as he had at times during the trial.

A sergeant noticed I had been waiting for a while and asked who I was there to see. "Ted Bundy," I replied quickly. He took me to a visiting cell where Bundy was meeting with one of his attorneys. The cell door closed behind me. I introduced myself, and it was clear by his grin that Bundy was amused by my audacity. Despite the attorney's uneasiness about

an unplanned interview, I sat while Bundy, unshaved and dressed in jail grays left open at the top, leaned back on his elbows on a bench, and went to work on me. He told me he was innocent, of course. Repeatedly. So innocent, he explained with that same grin spreading across his face, he wasn't losing any sleep. "I'm not trying to sound callous. ... I'm very confident we have a good appeal." He professed to be surprised and disappointed by the jury's relatively quick verdict after a five-week trial with complicated forensic evidence. He told me it would take a mind like "William S. Burroughs" to explain it. Not a fan of the Beat generation author he referenced, I didn't get what he meant, other than to show he was well-read. Bundy expected the death penalty but said he'd be "kind of stupid" to predict what Judge Edward Cowart would decide. He then imitated the judge's drawl: "Ah can only hope that the judge will look at mah case with an open mind."

Bundy had me smiling, and he left me wondering about the contrast between this personable, engaging man across from me and the ruthless killer the jury found him to be.

The next week, Judge Cowart sentenced Bundy to die for "extremely wicked, shockingly evil and vile" crimes — a quote that became the title of the new movie. Yet, as he had throughout the trial, Cowart showed judicial firmness mixed with some homespun warmth toward the former law school student who sometimes insisted on questioning witnesses, raising objections, and disrupting his defense team.

Cowart called him "a bright young man" who could have been a good lawyer, one he would "have loved" to have practice before him. "But you went another way, partner," Cowart said. As deputies prepared to take Bundy away, Cowart added softly: "Take care of yourself," and Bundy thanked him. □

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BRYAN CRANSTON | KEVIN HART
the upside
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
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SAT-SUN: 1:10 | 3:30 | 6:30 | 9:10
PG-13

LOUIS ASHBOURNE SERKIS | PATRICK STEWART
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Rap artists and women take center stage at Grammys

By DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rap artists and women have felt shunned by the Grammy Awards in recent years. But this year, they both took center stage.

Childish Gambino's disturbing look at race relations, "This is America," won record and song of the year on Sunday's telecast. It was the first time a rap-based song won both of those awards, considered — with album of the year — the recording industry's most prestigious.

Kacey Musgraves won top album and matched Childish Gambino with four Grammys total. A year after many women felt left out of the Grammy telecast, they delivered the night's most memorable performances. The best new artist winner, British singer Dua Lipa, also cast major shade on the outgoing recording academy president.

Lady Gaga and Brandi Carlile won three Grammys apiece, and former first lady Michelle Obama was a surprise guest at the top of the show on CBS.

Childish Gambino, the stage name of actor Donald Glover, and another prominent rap nominee, Kendrick Lamar, both declined invitations to perform or attend Sunday's



Brandi Carlile performs "The Joke" at the 61st annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

show. Some rap artists feel the Grammys have been slow to recognize how the genre now dominates popular music.

Ludwig Goransson, a songwriter and producer on "This is America," said backstage that he was surprised the victories were so historic. Just listening to the radio, watching the culture and seeing how many rap songs are downloaded is evidence of rap's impact. "It's about time something like this happened with the Grammys as well," Goransson said.

Cardi B became the first solo woman to win best rap album, although Lauryn Hill was the lead singer of the Fugees, which won the same award at the 1997 Grammys. Cardi B was so nervous accepting the award that she joked, "Maybe I need to start smoking weed." She looked anything but rattled earlier, when her rendition of "Money" was among the night's performance highlights. Janelle Monae delivered a smoking version of her hit "Make Me Feel"; St. Vincent and

Dua Lipa's duet on "Majesty" was steamy; H.E.R. turned heads with "Hard Place"; and Carlile sang an inspired version of her hit "The Joke."

Being part of a big night for women was huge to her, Carlile said backstage after the show.

"I'm a kid from the '90s and Lilith Fair, you know, and those women were just dominating those platforms," she said. "They were dominating those arena and amphitheater stages. They were getting record deals. They were becoming

record executives themselves. They completely controlled the airwaves. They were on the radio. And to watch that backslide for the last 20 years has been heartbreaking. Tonight, it gives me hope as a mother of two young daughters."

When she accepted her best new artist award, Dua Lipa pointedly said, "I guess this year we really stepped up."

That was a reference to outgoing Recording Academy CEO Neil Portnow, who said women needed to "step up" when he was asked about the lack of women in top categories in 2018. He later acknowledged it was a poor choice of words and delivered another *mea culpa* on Sunday's show.

Yet Dua Lipa was rewarded by having her acceptance speech cut off mid-sentence. She wasn't alone, however, as a handful of other artists were also hustled off the stage, and the show seemed disjointed at the end, rushing through its final awards. Under the circumstances, having a lengthy tribute to Portnow before he gave his own speech seemed tone-deaf. Lipa said later she would have thanked her fans, her inspirations and team if she had more time. □

Jennifer Lopez turns Motown tribute into own zesty show

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jennifer Lopez turned the Motown tribute into the J-Lo show.

The Latin singer-actress hit the Grammys stage on Sunday inserting her energetic dance-pop flavor into memorable Motown melodies such as "Dancing Machine" and "Dancing in the Street."

She faced backlash on social media for her lead participation in a tribute recognizing a historic African-American record label.

Some online questioned why a black artist wasn't chosen instead of Lopez,

but she received support from Smokey Robinson, who joined her in a duet to perform "My Girl," a song he co-wrote. She then briefly teamed up with Alicia Keys on "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone" and sang "Another Star" with Ne-Yo, who played the piano.

Lopez performed "Please Mr. Postman" while wearing a black ensemble with white feathers and accompanied by a group of dancers. She also sported a sparkling bodysuit during "Money (That's What I Want)."

After she finished, she told the crowd that she was "grateful" to be here to-

night.

Lopez said she dedicated her performance to her mother. The 49-year-old singer said she grew up on Motown music through her mom, listening to different artists such as The Temptations and The Supremes. Her performance comes days ahead of Motown's tribute concert to celebrate the label's 60th anniversary. The tribute takes place Tuesday at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Berry Gordy, who stood during Lopez's performance, founded Motown Records in 1959. The record label was home to numerous

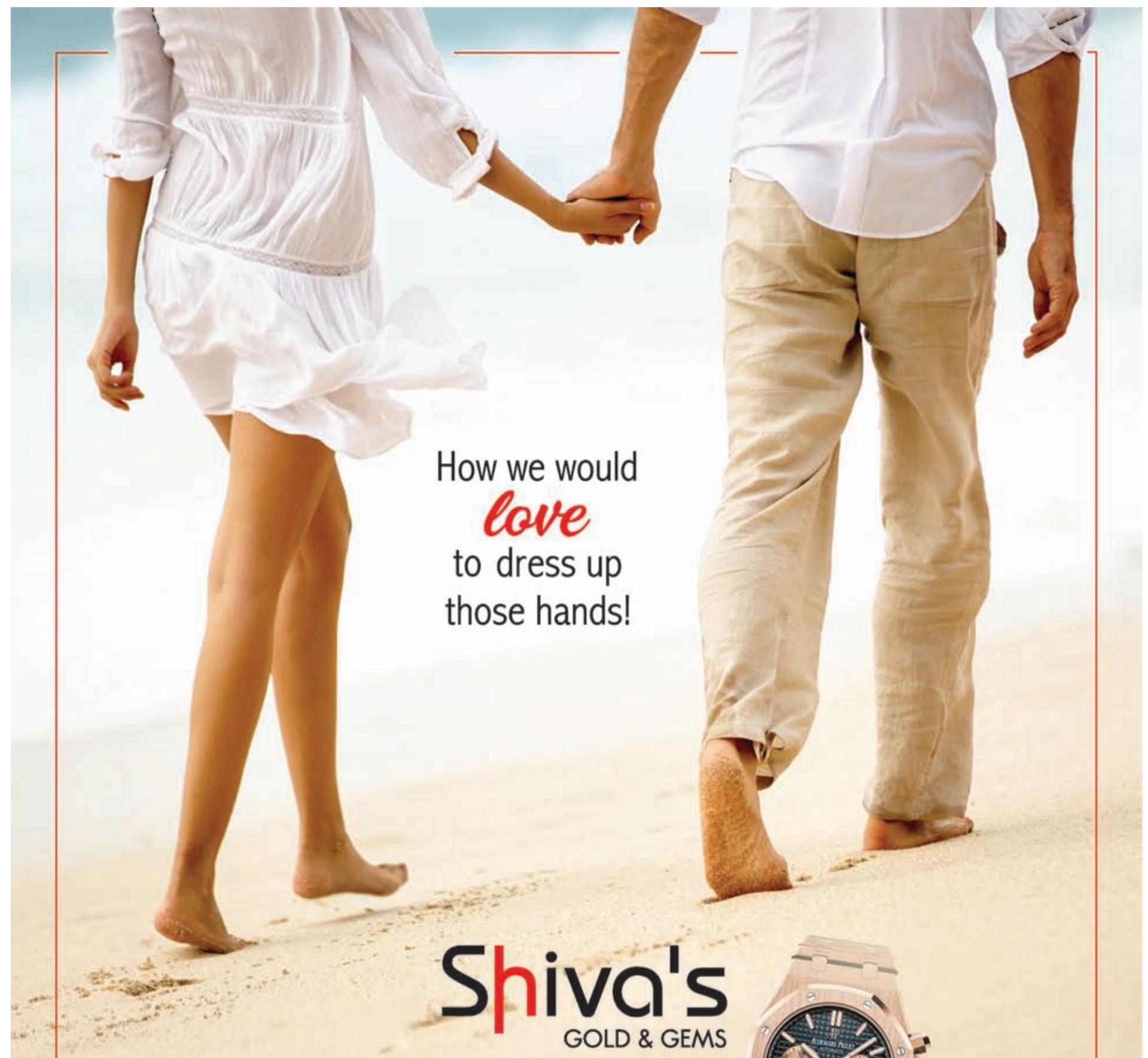
music artists including Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Mar-

vin Gaye, Michael Jackson and Diana Ross. □



Jennifer Lopez performs a medley during a tribute to Motown's 60th anniversary at the 61st annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



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